

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XVIII, Issue No. 66

THURSDAY MARCH 6, 2008

www.saipantribune.com 50¢



OPINION METER

This week's poll:
What should the CNMI do with the land alienation provision of the Constitution in 2011?

Let your voice be heard!
Go to
www.saipantribune.com
to cast your vote.

INSIDE



Comeback Kid

Sen. John McCain, a political maverick and unflinching supporter of the Iraq War, clinches the Republican prize.

NATION...Page 14

Border Tension

Venezuela and Ecuador reinforced their borders with Colombia on as the three nations traded increasingly bitter accusations.

WORLD...Page 16



Stripper Past

David Hernandez's stripper past didn't come back to haunt him on Tuesday night's "American Idol."

LIFE & STYLE...Page 18

Yumul: House ready to amend budget bill. **PAGE 2**
NMIRF investments sustain \$20M loss in January. **PAGE 3**

Island Medical closed down



JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Defense lawyers of Japanese businessman Kazuyoshi Miura, Mark B. Hanson, Bruce Berline and William Fitzgerald converse outside the courtroom during a break on Miura's motion hearing at the CNMI Superior Court in Susupe yesterday afternoon.

'Miura's arrest lawful'

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Superior Court Associate Judge Ramona V. Manglona ruled yesterday that the arrest of 60-year-old Japanese businessman Kazuyoshi Miura at the Saipan International Airport was lawful.

Manglona issued the oral decision after listening to the arguments by Miura's lawyers, Bruce Berline and Mark Hanson, and chief prosecutor Jeffery Warfield Sr. on Miura's motion to dismiss the extradition complaint and for his immediate release.

After announcing her ruling, the judge said the court must proceed with the requirements of the extradition statute.

See MIURA'S on Page 4



Manglona

By **RIANNE PANGELINAN-BROWN**
rianne_pangelinan@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Island Medical Center in Susupe, operated by the Micronesian Health Corp., was closed down by the Department of Public Health due to alleged noncompliance with rules and regulations.

According to the suspension order issued by DPH, Island Medical Center has a history of "unlawful pattern or practice by issuing health certificates either without blood screening tests or on the basis of false, forged and/or altered lab test documentary results."

See ISLAND on Page 4

'4 reasons why S.2483 won't work for us'

By **JAYVEE VALLEJERA**
editor@saipantribune.com
EDITOR

The two largest business organizations on the island have four major issues with the bill that seeks to federalize the CNMI's immigration system.

Speaking at the Saipan Chamber of Commerce membership meeting yesterday, Chamber president Jim Arenovski and Hotel Association of the Northern Marianas Islands chairwoman Lynn Knight said that HR 3079, now known as S. 2483, would cause the population to decline, does not provide long-term alternatives for the workforce, the suggested H-visa system is inflexible and is not suited for the CNMI's needs, and the proposed tourist visa waiver for Chinese and Russian tourists does not guarantee continued access to these markets.

They emphasized these key points during meetings with federal offices

See 4 REASONS on Page 4



JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Members of Saipan Chamber of Commerce and guests listen to Chamber president Jim Arenovski and Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands chairwoman Lynn Knight, together with Gov. Benigno Fitial and Finance Secretary Eloy S. Inos, as they discuss the results of their recent trips to Washington D.C. to lobby against federalization and the minimum wage hike during the SCC's general membership meeting at the Pacific Island Club's Charley Cabaret yesterday.

i335 Bluetooth
weight 3.5 oz



SLIM & LITE

THINNEST & LIGHTEST PTT PHONE . VOICE DIALING . VOICE RECORDING
SIM CARD 600 CONTACTS . USB CONNECTOR . COLOR DISPLAY . GPS
JAVA APPS . SPEAKERPHONE . FREE HOLSTER



i290
weight 3.0 oz

Saipan - Guam Office:
888-8888
Tinian/Rota: 898-4259
www.icconnectsaipan.com

CONNECT

Local

Yumul: House ready to amend budget bill

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSISTANT EDITOR

The chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee said he and his members are willing to amend the 2008 budget plan that the lower chamber passed Monday after the Office of the Governor said it would lead to an \$11 million deficit.

Rep. Ray N. Yumul said his committee acted in good faith when it formulated the \$167.48 million appropriations bill and majority of his colleagues in the House saw nothing wrong with the legislation when they passed

it on March 3.

"We are ready to amend our budget as soon as the governor gives us communication indicating, for example, that the budget resources are on a downward trend. ... We want to know how much and then we'll go back and amend the budget to reflect the amount," he said.

The Saipan lawmaker also defended his committee's formulation of the appropriations bill.

"All we did was [use] the ear-

marked recommendation and added them to the \$116 million, raising it to \$164 million (exclusive of Department of Public Lands). So why are we all of a sudden going to be \$11 million in deficit?" he said.

Yumul asked the Governor's Office to keep the Legislature up to date, especially on matters of fiscal

resources.

"As far as I'm concerned if the revenue stream is so dynamic that it fluctuates and changes in a daily basis we need to know



Yumul

that. Otherwise, how can we formulate a budget when budget resources are in a moving vehicle and you can't catch up with it? If it's fluctuating too greatly then we can't have a sound basis," said Yumul.

"If an accounting manager tells you that you only have a dollar to spend, we spend the dollar. If he comes back and he says the latest report is we can spend only 80 cents, then we spend 80 cents," he added.

Yumul said the potential \$11

million deficit should not be taken lightly as it could translate to a lot of jobs lost. To this end, he said he wants a document in black and white detailing the resources available for fiscal year 2008. "I want the Secretary of Finance to tell me this in writing and I will notify my members that we need to make changes, because that's a substantial drop."

Broken down, the bill, which Yumul introduced Friday, appropriates \$164.25 million for all government agencies under

the General Fund and \$3.23 million for the Department of Public Lands, which is funded by income from leases on public lands.

In addition, the bill distributes \$5.117 million of Compact Impact funds, or reimbursement money from the federal government to the CNMI for hosting Micronesian citizens.

The budget will apply to the current fiscal year, which runs from Oct. 1, 2007 to Sept. 30, 2008.

Pangelinan: Budget bill is fine but...

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSISTANT EDITOR

The chairwoman of the Senate Fiscal Affairs Committee believes she wouldn't have any problem with the 2008 budget proposal passed by the House on Monday if it was submitted five months earlier.

Sen. Maria Frica T. Pangelinan said that while the Senate would obviously need more time to scrutinize the appropriations bill—House Speaker Arnold I. Palacios admitted to her that the lower chamber needed one and a half months to pass it—she already noticed some good and bad points in the legislation following a quick read.

"The budget format as passed by the House would have been fine if we had not yet started the fiscal year for FY2008.

But when we only have seven months left in the fiscal year of the budget we are addressing, we definitely need to take into account the expenditures made to date, and decide what relief measures are necessary to meet the shortfalls projected as a result of the change in Retirement

[Fund] contribution from 11 percent to 18 percent and the unpaid holidays that were factored in by the governor to balance the budget," she said.

The Saipan lawmaker also wants a clearer picture on how the House came up with the \$167.48 million proposal for the 2008 budget and what was the basis for how it was appropriated by agencies.

"There was no committee report to explain the numbers and figures, so the Senate has to figure out what changes were made from the Governor's sub-

mission, why the changes were made and the consequences, if any?"

"Maybe yes, maybe not, maybe not as passed by the House but with recommended amendments. Depends on the outcome of the committee findings," she said.

The House passed the 2008 appropriations bill Monday on first and final reading. It was introduced last Friday and earmarks \$164.25 million for all government agencies under the General Fund and \$3.23 million for the Department of Public Lands, which is funded by income from leases on public lands.

In addition, the bill distributes \$5.117 million of Compact Impact funds, or reimbursement money from the federal government to the CNMI for hosting Micronesian citizens.

The budget will apply to the current fiscal year, which runs from Oct. 1, 2007 to Sept. 30, 2008.



Pangelinan

Unkempt site of Tatachog dump draws concerns

By RIANNE PANGELINAN-BROWN
rienne_pangelinan@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Rota Municipal Council member Vicente M. Calvo has raised a concern about the Tatachog dump site, which he said appears to be abandoned and neglected.

In a letter to the Department of Public Works resident director Martin S. Atalig, Calvo said the people of Rota have witnessed in the past that at least some control had been taken by DPW to keep the site organized.

"Today, however, it appears to be abandoned and neglected," Calvo stated.

He said the Tatachog dump site used to be manned so that people could be guided to where they could dump their trash. "Now that it is unmanned, people sometimes dump uncontrollably anywhere around the site including the secondary access (Old Japanese railroad) road."

Calvo is requesting DPW to bring back some control into the area.

He also urged all concerned departments and agencies to work collaboratively to tidy up the Tatachog dump.

In May 2006, the DPW in Rota was appropriated \$50,500 to purchase landfill heavy equipment parts, beautification equipments, fuel and lubricants, payment of clean up outstanding obligations due to Typhoon Pongsona, and to construct an

uploading ramp at the Tatachog dump site.

In order to promote environmental safety, the open dumpsite requires to be periodically covered.

According to PL 15-10, the task cannot be accomplished due to the lack of landfill equipment, fuel and lubricants to operate the equipment, and to put in place an uploading ramp.



BIRTHDAY GIRL

Happy birthday greetings go out to Ikesia Inesa Diaz, who is celebrating her second birthday today, March 6, 2008. "We hope that you will enjoy your special day today and pray that God will give you more birthdays to come." Greetings come from your Mom, Grandpa, and Grandma.



BUY WITH CONFIDENCE ONLY AT TRIPLE J

MONEY BACK GUARANTEE*

FIRST SERVICE FREE FINANCING AVAILABLE
INSPECTED & RECONDITIONED

1998 MITSUBISHI MONTERO 7M004-A
SUV, 4x4, AT, A/C Power Clean

\$5,995

1999 MITSUBISHI MIRAGE 8M018-A
4-Door, AT, Power, A/C, Alloy Wheels

\$5,995

2002 MAZDA MILLENIA 7D002-A
4-Door, AT, A/C, Power, Sharp

\$7,995

2003 MAZDA MPV 3R881
7-Pax Van, Power, A/C

\$8,495

2000 TOYOTA SIENNA 7M001-A
7 Pax Van, Power, A/C

\$8,595

2005 HYUNDAI SONATA 5R918
4-Door, AT, A/C, Power, Great Price

\$8,995

2002 FORD MUSTANG 2H0387
2-Door, Convertible, A/C, Power, Clean

\$10,495

2002 FORD CROWN VICTORIA 2H0389
4-Door, AT, A/C, Power, Nice and Clean

\$9,995

2005 MITSUBISHI LANCER 5R910
4-Door, AT, A/C, Power, Must See

\$10,595

2006 MAZDA3i SEDAN 6R905
4-Door, AT, A/C, Low Miles, Warranty

\$12,995

2004 NISSAN QUEST 7R912-A
7 Pax Van, AT, A/C, Clean, Must See

\$13,595

2005 MAZDA3S HATCHBACK 7D038-A
5-Door, AT, A/C, Power, Clean, Must See

\$13,995

2005 VOLVO XC90 T6 5V001-D
SUV, AT, A/C, Loaded, Must See

\$29,995

2004 MAZDA RX-8 4R908
GT Coupe, AT, Loaded, Low Miles, Must See

\$18,995

MECHANICS SPECIAL

1997 DODGE INTREPID 7R890
2-Door, Coupe, Runs

\$1,995

1994 CHEVY CAMARO 4R877-A
2-Door, Coupe, Runs

\$1,595

2001 HYUNDAI SONATA 3R906-A
4-Door, 4-cylinders, Runs

\$1,995

TRIPLE J MOTORS
TRIPLE J CAR MART

MON-FRI: 8am to 6pm Sat: 8am to 5pm
Tel: 234-7133 Fax: 234-3052 • Beach Road, Chalan Lau Lau

MON-FRI: 8am to 6pm Sat: 8am to 5pm
Tel: 235-5065/6 Fax: 234-2326 • Middle Road, Chalan Kiya

* On approved credit. Some conditions apply, see salesperson for details.

NMIRF investments sustain \$20M loss in Jan.

By JAYVEE VALLEJERA
editor@saipantribune.com
EDITOR

The subprime meltdown that has rattled bourses worldwide and the near-stumble of the U.S. economy in the last quarter of 2007 has affected the investments of the NMI Retirement Fund, causing it to lose about 4 percent of its portfolio in January. That translates to a loss of a little over \$20 million.

The Fund's investments stood at \$450.09 million in January, the latest figure available based on preliminary figures provided by the Fund's money managers. That was at \$473.81 million in November 2007.

The continued monthly withdrawal of cash from the portfolio to meet pension obligations is also having an impact on the Fund's financial standing, according to Fund administrator Mark Aguon.

"In addition to the market drop caused by the subprime mortgage crisis and the possible recession in the U.S. economy, we are also going through a cyclical reduction in our portfolio, compounded by the withdrawals that we make every month to meet our obligations," said Aguon.

He stressed that losses are locked in once investment assets are cashed out during a time of decline in the market. This means that money that ought to be re-invested is not being used for that purpose, resulting in an actual loss of assets.

"It's a real loss, not just a paper loss. That's the danger when drawing down, when cashing out securities and other assets, during a down cycle in the market," Aguon said.

The Fund's investment portfolio had a beginning market value of \$472.58 million in

January. The Fund withdrew \$852,000 from this for pension and operational purposes. Coupled with an investment value loss of \$21.63 million, the Fund's portfolio now stands at \$450.09 million.

The Fund is forced to make monthly withdrawals (or draw-downs) from its investment assets to meet pension payments as the CNMI government continues to fail to meet its full employer contribution obligations.

"If we don't withdraw, what choice do I have? Where do I get the money to pay the pensions?" asked Aguon.

Although the prospect of an upturn in the stock market remains dim in the immediate future, Aguon is confident that the Fund's investment will not be too affected by the crisis.

"Although it doesn't look good, I believe we will not

be too affected so long as we stick to our investment model and as long as there is no drastic drop in the market. Our allocation model is well-written and if our money managers stick with it, we will make better than average even with the downturn," he said.

The Fund has nine money managers, all supervised by Merrill Lynch.

Aguon doesn't believe that the subprime crisis and the U.S. housing slump will have the same impact as the dot-com debacle in the early '90s. "That is not to downplay the current crisis but I think we are in a better position to absorb losses."

He warned, though, that the constant withdrawal in cash assets has not been factored into the model, which could adversely impact the portfolio's

performance in the long run.

The Fund's investments plunged to as low as \$189 million in October 2002 as its international equities went haywire due in part to the impact brought by the 9/11 crisis. The market performance began to improve

about middle of 2003.

Majority of the Fund's investments are in equities, with 46 percent in large capital stocks and 12 percent both in small caps and international stocks. The rest are spread out among fixed income instruments: 14 percent in Core, 10 percent in Treasury Inflation-Protected Securities, and 5 percent in alternative investments.

US military looking at Tinian, other islands

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSISTANT EDITOR

The Department of Defense said it is considering using Tinian and other islands in the Northern Marianas for training purposes during a briefing with the Legislature yesterday morning on Capital Hill.

The DoD delegation, led by Assistant Secretary of the Navy B.J. Penn, saw its scheduled 30-minute meeting with members of the House and Senate extend to a full hour after lawmakers quizzed the military officers about how the CNMI fits into the Armed Forces' relocations plans to Guam from Okinawa.

"We are looking at Tinian for training. As you know, we lease a portion of the northern part of the island. The Marine Corps is doing a training concept study as well as looking throughout the CNMI... like as far north as Pagan and of course the other islands that are [already] being used that could be enhanced," said Capt. Bob Lee, the acting director of the Department of Defense Joint Guam Programs Office and a frequent visitor to the Commonwealth.

"The CNMI is being looked at very closely. Once I get all the studies together we'll have a better idea on what we want to do. The governor [Benigno R. Fitial] said he is welcoming us to look at any other opportunities. So, we appreciate the willingness but we are committed to doing some activities in the CNMI. It's just a matter of what the studies dictate," he added.

Penn, for his part, disclosed that one of their plans for the region is to build an enduring base in Guam and that DoD plans to incorporate the CNMI as much as possible when and if this finally happens.

"What we're trying to do is establish a program that whatever happens is enduring and will be locked in place," he said.

Penn, who may come back to

Saipan later this year with Secretary of the Navy Dr. Donald C. Winter, said how the CNMI would be involved in the relocation in Guam would weight heavily on how the master plan would be drafted.

"The Marine Corps is drafting a master plan of things that they want to do here that they weren't able to do in Okinawa and vice versa. We want an all-encompassing master plan. I see this as a very enduring base. We've talked about having reserve centers here, Coast Guard centers here. If we're going to do it right, we have to have an enduring base here and be able to screen everyone," said Penn.

He added that the government of Japan is a partner in the military's relocation to the southernmost chain of the Mari-

anas because they are providing most of the money.

Penn also said that as much as possible he would like small business to benefit from the planned build-up in Guam.

"We want small investors to be involved in the relocation of U.S. military to Guam. We always like suggestions. There are no bad ideas. This is the largest program the Department of Defense has had. We have a very talented group of people working on this," he said referring to CNMI's interest in getting residual contracts from the buildup in the U.S. territory.

"We intend to buy all our services from the local community. We want to be your neighbors. We want to buy everything we can from you—utilities, landfill, water, what have you," he said.

PORKY'S BEACH BAR & GRILL
GOOD TIMES
BEACH PATIO
BEHIND MCDONALD'S GARAPAN, FACING THE BEACH
233-2444 • 287-0687
GREAT FOOD
FREE WiFi
5 KINDS POKI
DANCING
HAPPY HOURS 2PM TO 7PM MON-SAT
SPECIAL CHASERS

Palms Resort Saipan

Easter Sunday Brunch

March 23, 2008 11:00am - 2:00pm

@ **fresko**

\$20.00 Adult

\$15.00 Child (4-11 years old)

20% Local Discount Applicable / No Duplicate Discount

* FREE POOL PASS

- Special Activities -

- * Egg Hunting for Kids
- * Coloring Contest for Kids
- * Mini Zoo
- * FREE Family Photo



Easter Weekend Stay Package

Each Night Stay @ Ocean Front Room

\$88.00

Inclusive of:

- * Choice of Breakfast or Easter Sunday Brunch for two
- * 50% Discount in all PRS Restaurants and Bars
- * Room Tax

March 22 - 24, 2008

(Early Check-in 10:00am, Late Check-out 3:00pm)

CNMI & Guam Residents Only, Photo ID required upon check-in. Membership and duplicate discounts not applicable. Conditions apply, please call 670-322-3311 for details.

DANDIE COMPUTER
(SALES & SERVICE)
Limited Time Sale Offer
COMPLETE PENTIUM 4 SYSTEM
HURRY!
FOR AS LOW AS \$297⁵⁰
INTERNET CAFE AVAILABLE FOR \$2.00/HR
Business Hours: Mon-Fri 10:00am - 6:00pm
Saturday-10:00am - 5:00pm • Sunday - Closed
COMPUTER ACCESSORIES AND FREE DIAGNOSTICS
Guam Office: 255 South Marine Corps. Dr. Winner Building Ste 10-1 Tamuning, Guam 96913
Saipan Office: Island Commercial Center Middle Road, Gualo Rai (across First Hawaiian Bank)
For inquiries, call 234-PC4U (7248) or email: dandie97@opticom.com

For reservation, please call 670-322-3311

PSS purchases two new vans

The Public School System has purchased two new passenger vans worth \$36,000 each from Joeten Motors.

According to federal programs advisor Tim Thornburgh, one van will go to the Marianas High School to help support the Cooperative Research Education Program and other MHS after-school programs. The second van will be assigned to the PSS' second largest school, Hopwood Junior High School.

Thornburgh said the vans

will benefit PSS by reducing the number of trips that the 66-passenger school buses must make.

"It enables the PSS to limit the use of school buses just for transportation from home to school and back five days a week during the 36-week school year," Thornburgh said.

The vans will also be used for interscholastic sports competitions, field trips, and to support after-school and Saturday school programs.

PSS recently purchased six

units of 66-passenger school buses from CNMI's Triple J Motors worth over \$700,000.

The two vans and the new buses were purchased using the \$948,000 Federal Transit Administration grant that was awarded to PSS for the purchase of these new vehicles in FY 2007. *(Rianne Pangelinan-Brown)*

Joeten Motors turns over the two vans to PSS officials.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



4 REASONS

From Page 1

and members of the U.S. Congress in Washington D.C. last week.

"These are the major reasons why the bill doesn't work for us and doesn't take care of the CNMI's needs," said Knight.

First off, she said, the bill would artificially cause the CNMI's population to decline over the next four and a half years as the guest worker program is phased out. "I don't think that we want the population to decline any further. We have already suffered hardships as the garment industry has departed. This bill would cause the economy to shrink further every year, so this will be quite damaging," said Knight.

The bill will immediately cap the number of foreign workers at 19,000, which is the current number of nonresident workers in the islands.

At the same time, all existing workers will have to leave the CNMI within two years, or whenever their contracts end, whichever comes first.

"They could re-apply under the H visa system, but essentially we could see a 100 percent turnover in our workforce within two years."

More damaging, said Knight, is that

Saipan Chamber of Commerce president Jim Arenovski and Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands Chairwoman Lynn Knight together with Gov. Benigno Fitial and Finance Secretary Eloy S. Inos at the Pacific Island Club's Charley Cabaret yesterday.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ



the bill seeks to reduce foreign workers to zero over 4.5 years. "Basically, by Dec. 31, 2013, we would phase out our local labor system to zero, under the bill. We're offered the H system, but it doesn't suit our needs and would be capped by the end of 2013."

Benchmarks set by the bill would require the CNMI to reduce 4,000-plus workers per year until all foreign workers are phased out under the CNMI's guest worker program. The bill is vague on how this is going to be achieved and offers no systematic approach to an orderly phase-out.

"Who is going to go first? Is it my business or your business? Which industry and which positions will be prioritized? We don't know based on

what the bill says," she said.

The bill does provide for a transition period that could be extended, but progress must be shown toward achieving zero foreign workers by 2013. A decision on the extension would not be made until the end of the first transition period ends.

Secondly, the bill does not provide any viable long-term alternatives for the CNMI work force, Knight said.

Based on government data, the CNMI has a total workforce of approximately 30,000—that's all the jobs that are available in government and the private sector. There are approximately 12,000 locals in the workforce, of which about 4,000-5,000 work for the government. At the same time, lo-

cal schools are graduating only about 700 per year.

"We are short at least 18,000 employees, now filled by foreign workers," said Knight. "The math is very, very simple. There's simply not enough local people here to fill all of the jobs."

There is talk of giving the CNMI an H-visa system but Arenovski said that based on discussions with the Homeland Security Department and the research the Chamber official has on the subject, it has been determined that H visas are not viable for the CNMI.

"It's an inflexible system. H visas are designed for temporary jobs and skilled employees," said Arenovski. "We took a hard look at the H-2B visa and it's basically designed for seasonal workers on fixed contracts for a certain period of time."

This means that H-2B visa holders cannot continue to be renewed indefinitely. "The maximum that you are allowed to renew is three years," he said.

At the same time, the cost is prohibitive: \$2,000-plus versus \$250 under CNMI system, according to federal websites.

Also, the cap on H visas would be removed temporarily but will be placed back on Dec. 31, 2013, both for the CNMI and Guam. After that, the islands would need to compete under the

cap of 66,000 workers for the entire United States.

"The chances of us getting the workers that we need will be slim to none," said Arenovski.

Finally, tourist visa waiver for China and Russia would not guarantee continued access to these markets, which today make up at least 10 percent of the CNMI's tourists, Knight said.

She said that Homeland Security did not give them any assurance that the department would be sympathetic to the idea of the CNMI keeping these markets.

"They're not prepared to set up a separate system just for us."

She stressed that the loss of these markets would cause an immediate decline in the economy. "What we have invested in these markets over the past 10 years is clearly at risk. It will clearly not be status quo."

According to federal sources, Chinese and Russian tourists would need to apply in person at U.S. embassies to get a visa and it would cost a minimum of \$131, while it's now almost free. "Unfortunately, under such a scenario, we will no longer be competitive for these markets," said Knight. "The time it takes and the cost are significant factors in the decisions tourists make about where to go on their vacations."

MIURA'S

From Page 1

Attorney General's Investigative Unit acting chief Edward Cabrera, who arrested Miura at the airport on Feb. 22, took the witness stand in yesterday's hearing.

Manglona explained that Cabrera's testimony is needed so the court can determine whether the defendant is the same person that is charged in Los Angeles.

As of 6:30pm yesterday, Cabrera was still on the witness stand. The hearing, which began at exactly 3pm, was attended by many Japanese media. Some CNMI lawyers also listened to the arguments.

Shortly after the start of the hearing, veteran attorney William Fitzgerald

joined Berline and Hanson in Miura's defense's team.

Berline gave a PowerPoint presentation to lay out, among other things, how the murder case against Miura started and eventually his conviction being overturned by Japan's high court.

Berline also explained how the CNMI extradition procedures were not followed by the Attorney General's Office. Berline and Hanson argued that their client's arrest and continued detention for 13 days now are illegal.

Hanson asserted, among other things, that the 1988 warrant of arrest for Miura to support his arrest on Saipan was ineffective because of subsequent events in Japan. Hanson said the intervening circumstances caused the 1988 warrant to become ineffective.

Berline said there are four statutes that the government failed to comply

with in this case. He said the 1988 warrant was outdated, ineffective, and invalid to support the warrantless arrest of Miura.

In the government's opposition, Warfield stressed that the warrantless arrest on Feb. 22 was lawful because Cabrera relied upon reliable information from U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement Agency and Los Angeles Police Department.

Warfield said Cabrera's information was based on direct information from LAPD and ICE.

"Cabrera's affidavit satisfies the requirements of a warrantless arrest," the chief prosecutor said.

In the government's opposition papers, Warfield said Miura was lawfully arrested based on upon reasonable information that he stands charged in the courts of California with a crime pun-

ishable by death or imprisonment for a term exceeding one year.

"After being arrested, Miura was taken before the court with all practicable speed and complaint was made against the accused under oath setting forth the ground for the arrest," Warfield said.

Hanson said there is no affidavit that states Miura has been a fugitive from justice, which is one of the requirements in the extradition statute.

"It's already 13 days now that Mr. Miura has been in illegal detention. What the court should do is dismiss the case and release Mr. Miura," Hanson said.

He said there was no probable cause that the arrest was lawful at the initial hearing and so the continued detention is illegal.

Hanson said that if the government can comply with the requirements of the extradition statute, then the court

can issue a fugitive from justice warrant and arrest Miura again.

In dismissing the motion, Manglona said that based on information received from ICE and LAPD, Cabrera represented that the crime had been committed in California.

Manglona said Cabrera also indicated that he did receive the felony offense complaint from LAPD.

The judge also cited Cabrera's affidavit on how he communicated with ICE and LAPD and got the statements of Miura and his wife at the airport.

These facts, Manglona said, support the findings that Miura fled from justice in California.

Hanson told the court they are denying all the allegations.

Manglona replied: "In this case the court accepts the denial of the complaint."

ISLAND

From Page 1

The order, issued to the medical center on Tuesday, is made "to prevent mitigate and or alleviate an imminent health hazard that was occurring."

Island Medical Center was further ordered to cease the operation of its medical clinic "until such time as the order is rescinded."

The immediate suspension of the Island Medical Center started Tuesday, March 4, 2008 at 3:20pm.

A visit to the clinic yesterday afternoon showed that it was closed. Calls made to the number listed on the directory were not answered. DPH declined to comment for now.

The Office of the Aging in Garapan has also come under scrutiny by the Bureau of Environmental Health and was directed to fix several problems

identified at its kitchen.

BEH inspectors visited the Aging Office Friday and asked them to either rectify the kitchen's flaws or close it down.

According to Aging Office director Howard Macaranas, the bureau had noticed that the kitchen is not up to par with current health regulations.

Macaranas said that the kitchen cabinets made of wood had been there for at least 15 years, making it vulnerable to mildew and cockroaches. PVC faucets

that were covered with cloth had been placed in the kitchen sinks and had not been changed in a timely manner.

Older kitchen appliances were still being kept and placed in random areas when most of them were already for disposal.

Macaranas said he has plans to upgrade the kitchen and replace the items with stainless steel, making the kitchen less vulnerable to pests. However, he explained that he had not had the

chance to correct the flaws because of budget issues.

The kitchen remains open at the moment.

Macaranas said that the Aging Office holds no anger or animosity toward the unprecedented visit from the BEH.

"This serves as a wake up call for all of us. We all need to contribute in many ways in order for us to keep on serving our elders in as healthy a manner as possible," Macaranas said.

CUC sets rotating outages anew

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. implemented yesterday another series of rotating outages in many areas on Saipan as CUC contractors and mechanics continued their maintenance repair on a large power generator.

CUC Power Division acting manager Gary P. Camacho said the generator at the Power Plant 1 in Lower Base could not carry customer load so re-

pairs were necessary.

Camacho said that while repairs are ongoing, rotating and pre-announced power outages will happen.

The outage began from 9am to 11am at Joeten Commercial Complex, CUC, Joeten Grocery, PHI Pharmacy, CNMI Revenue and Tax, Department of Public Lands, Zoning Board, Kannat Tabla, and the Stanford Hotel area.

From 11am to 1pm, affected areas were Anaks Condos, Marina Heights Business Complex in Puerto Rico, and Upper China Town and Upper MIHA in Garapan.

From 1pm to 3pm, the outage was in Kristo Rai Church, Beach Road-Garapan south to San Jose intersection.

From 3pm to 5pm, the outage happened on Capital Hill

to Kagman.

From 5pm to 7pm, the outage was at Susupe Court House south to portions of Chalan Kanoa.

From 7pm to 9pm, affected

were Lower Base industrial area, north to Tanapag, Achugao, San Roque, As Matuis, and Marpi.

Camacho said the schedule for outages depend on the cus-

tomers demand.

"Conservation will limit or help avoid outages," Camacho said.

He said the power plant will not turn off the power unless absolutely necessary.

"Should another engine fail, more outages will occur," he added. *(Ferdie de la Torre)*

Woman in fake marriage pleads guilty

A woman who engaged in a fake marriage with a Bangladeshi national in order for the latter to obtain an Immediate Relative status entered a guilty plea in federal court yesterday.

Rose Mayo Reyes, 24, pleaded guilty to aiding and abetting an attempted illegal entry into the U.S.

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Alex R. Munson accepted Reyes' plea and set the sentencing for June 10, 2008 at 9am.

Munson ordered the U.S. Probation Office to prepare a presentence investigation report by May 6, 2006.

Munson said Reyes will remain at liberty under all of the same terms and conditions of her temporary release as the court had previously set.

Reyes pleaded guilty in connection with Mohamad Ruhul Amin's "attempt to enter the U.S. by use of a willfully false or misleading representation or by the willful concealment of a material fact."

Reyes and counsel F. Matthew Smith signed a plea agreement with the U.S. government represented by assistant U.S. attorney Eric O'Malley.

Under the agreement, the

government will recommend a prison term for the defendant not exceeding the maximum of six months.

According to the factual basis of the agreement, on Aug. 23, 2007, Reyes "knowingly and willingly aided and abetted Amin's attempted entry into the U.S."

In furtherance of the scheme, Reyes filed an application for a U.S. passport (Form DS-11) in the District of the NMI and Honolulu, Hawaii, knowing that the said application contained false or fraudulent information.

Last January, Amin was charged in federal court with conspiracy to commit offense or to defraud the United States, false statement in the application for a passport, and subornation of perjury.

Amin married Reyes, a U.S. citizen, on May 9, 2007.

O'Malley said the purpose of the marriage was to enable Amin to obtain IR status under the CNMI immigration laws.

In exchange for the marriage, the defendant allegedly provided Reyes with money and gifts worth several hundred dollars.

O'Malley said the two never lived and never intended to live together as husband and wife.

On Aug. 23, 2007, Amin asked Reyes to submit an application for a U.S. passport that would identify him as her spouse.

On that day, Reyes submitted a Form DS-11 indicating that she was married to Amin, replacing her family name with his, to the United States Passport Office in Susupe, Saipan. *(Ferdie de la Torre)*

Volcanic haze blown to Saipan and Tinian again

By JAYVEE VALLEJERA
editor@saipantribune.com
EDITOR

The CNMI Emergency Management Office issued a volcanic haze and sulfur advisory late afternoon yesterday, saying that light winds will be carrying gas from Anatahan to Saipan and Tinian last night.

EMO said that residents of Saipan and Tinian should notice a slight sulfur smell and some reduction in visibility due to haze last night until midnight. Those with respiratory problems were advised to stay indoors.

"Light north winds are carrying gases and haze from Anatahan to our area. The satellite images also shows some ash is being emitted by the volcano but the ash is mainly confined near and just east of the volcano," EMO said.

The haze and gas extending south toward Saipan and Tinian was expected to arrive yesterday evening.

The haze and light odor of sulfur was expected to mingle around until the wind shift enough to the east to blow the gases and haze out to sea and away from the islands.

The wind flow pattern was expected to change this morning.

Based on the SO2 analyzer reading at the EMO, it indicated sulfur concentrations of 113ppb (parts per billions) as of 5:45pm.

"Concentrations of volcanic gases should be low but the haze and odor may bother people with respiratory problems. People who experience breathing problems should remain indoors," said EMO.

All mariners were also reminded to take precautionary measures due to low visibility.

The advisory was issued in consultation with the U.S. Geological Service and the National Weather Service in Guam.

Log in at www.cnmiemo.gov.mp on the Internet for updates.

HAWAII BAR & GRILL

Lunch Specials
Meals are served with a scoop of rice, soup, and a variety of salads: cucumber, vegetable, and macaroni

Chili Frank	\$5.95	Grilled Mahi Mahi	\$7.50
Teriyaki Chicken	\$6.95	Spicy Shrimp	\$7.95
Ginger Chicken	\$5.95	Teriyaki Beef Burger w/ Cheese	\$5.95
Poki	\$7.00	Fish & Chips	\$7.50
Kalua Pig with Lomi Salmon	\$7.50	Hawaiian Style Glazed Ham	\$6.95
Loco Moco	\$6.95	Chicken Curry	\$6.95
Pork Katsu	\$6.95	Beef Stew	\$6.95
Grilled Wahoo	\$7.50		

Hawaiian Splash
\$4.50
/Pitcher

Spicy Tuna Sushi
\$3.50

Spam Sushi
\$3.50

We are open from 11 a.m. to 2 a.m. for Lunch and Dinner and serve authentic Hawaiian dishes with reasonable prices!
Wireless Internet is now available!

You can reach us at 238-8200. Add us on myspace: myspace.com/hawaitbarandgrill.

Larry Lee & Kaliko Johnson
Plays Live
every Wednesday & Saturday
7:00PM - 9:00PM

Hawaii Bar & Grill

FIESTA RESORT HYATT REGENCY AMERICAN MEMORIAL PARK

Come down and get a taste of Hawaii today!

A Guaranteed Prize Pool

\$ 100,000

Baccarat Challenge

SATURDAY & SUNDAY

March 15 & 16, 2008

1st PRIZE	\$ 60,000
2nd PRIZE	\$ 20,000
3rd PRIZE	\$ 10,000
4th PRIZE	\$ 4,000
5th to 10th PRIZE	\$ 1,000

Entry Fee: \$1,000

Includes: Two nights Deluxe accommodation, Cocktail Party, Meals, Tournament beverages & Airfare reimbursement.

Bet with your head, not over it.

For a chance to win your share of \$100,000 in prize money, please call VIP Services Tel: (670) 328-2285

Two crews, one mission: Save a boy's life



U.S. AIR FORCE

Air Force and Army medical crews work to stabilize Lionel Sanchez Jr., a 7-year-old boy on Saipan, who was the focus of a dramatic airlift in late December. The military crews came from Okinawa and Hawaii to treat the boy and move him to Hawaii, in the hopes that more comprehensive care would save him.

By **TERI WEAVER**
STARS AND STRIPES

Editor's note: The following was initially published in the March 3, 2008, edition of Stars and Stripes.

Lionel Sanchez Jr.'s ordeal started a week before Christmas with a game of dodgeball at his school near Lito, his home village on Saipan.

The ball glanced off the 7-year-old's right hip. It hurt, he told his mom.

By the end of the day he was running a fever. In the next few days, he stopped eating and sleeping. By Dec. 22, he broke out in a hive-like rash and began to gasp for air. By Christmas Day, after spending three nights in the hospital, he was vomiting blood and couldn't walk.

"It got worse," his mother, Amy Sanchez, said.

The day after Christmas, his lung blew a hole, filling his chest with too much air. His heart stopped. The medical team in Saipan called a code blue, inserted a chest tube, and revived the little boy, whose family calls him L.J.

"I wasn't sure if he was going to survive," said Lt. Col. Anne Naclerio, an Army pediatric intensive care doctor at Tripler Army Medical Center in Hawaii, who spent her Christmas on the phone with the medical team in Saipan. She offered advice, heard the code blue, and got ready to go.

Within hours, two U.S. Air Force C-17s were headed to the island.

One came from Kadena Air Base in Okinawa, filled with an Alaska-based flight crew and a group of Kadena flight nurses and medics from the 18th Air Medical Evacuation Squadron.

The second came from Hickam Air Force Base, manned by a Hawaiian Air National Guard unit. They had been scheduled to go the Philippines. Instead, they took on an Air Force pediatric critical care air transport team, including Naclerio and an anesthesiologist, and headed for Saipan.

Everyone landed on Dec. 27, Saipan time.

The Kadena squadron is part of a specialized Air Force unit whose mission includes airlifting servicemembers and other Americans with medical emergencies throughout the Pacific and Asia. They respond with their air ambulance about 300 times a year.

The pediatric critical care air transport team out of Hickam responds less frequently but carries the same mission, Naclerio said. As the military's only pediatric intensive care specialist in the Pacific, Naclerio makes emergency airlifts about three times a year. She goes only when specialized care is needed.

In this case, L.J. needed all the help he could get.

After the landing, the medical teams rushed to the hospital and worked for hours to stabilize L.J. so he could fly.

On the tarmac, the Alaska crew—part of the 517th Air-lift Squadron from Elmendorf Air Force Base—refueled and waited. The Hawaii-based plane flew on to the Philippines; only one plane was needed to get L.J. to Hawaii.

Finally, after dark, L.J. was in an ambulance headed to the airport. His respiratory system was so weak that manual compressions were needed during the ride.

"That was just heartbreaking," said Air Force Lt. Col. David Almand, the commander of the Elmendorf squadron and himself a father of two sons, 4 and 8. Even after everyone got L.J. onto the plane, the pilot had to wait until the boy was stable.

An unofficial escort of family and friends had followed the ambulance in their own cars, honking their way down the island's Middle Road through the daily traffic jam—crowds emerging from evening Mass.

The family stopped their cars at the runway's fence line. Nadine Aquino, L.J.'s aunt, and the others scrambled onto their car hoods and called family members on cell phones. When a plane takes off on the small island, most residents can hear it. L.J.'s family wanted to know when his plane was overhead.

Air Force Capt. Donna Hornberger, a flight nurse with the Kadena crew, had never seen such a unified effort from so many units to get a patient to a safer place.

"That mission solidified why I do what I do and highlighted the extent the U.S. military will go to save a life," she said. "His only real hope was to get him off the island."

The medical teams had figured out what was wrong with L.J. long before they put the planes in the air.

That dodgeball landed on a spot on his right hip that was infected with staphylococcus bacteria. Worse, the hip held an infected blood clot lying in wait. When the staph-laced clot went skipping throughout L.J.'s bloodstream, it started a war.

Part of the infected clot went into his right leg. Most of the bacteria settled in his left lung. When the body gets that sick, it fights so hard that healthy tissue falls victim to the attack, Naclerio said. With too little tissue and too much air, pressure builds on the lungs and heart.

A quick response from the doctors in Saipan—inserting the chest tube—kept him alive, Naclerio said. But they remained limited by the island's facilities, including the fact that the local hospital had no pediatric intensive care unit, L.J.'s mother said.

Saipan is the capital of the

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, a chain of U.S.-controlled islands just north of Guam. Most of the islands' 70,000 residents live on Saipan, a place where immigration rules make it easy for migrant workers to power the islands' factories while gaining access to U.S. territory.

More than that, Saipan is a small place. It's the kind of place where the family of a sick boy orders pizza for the military teams gathered to save his life. It's the kind of place where a patient's relative can walk up to a C-17 crew and ask, politely, if he could take a peek at the place where the boy would be lying during his flight to Hawaii.

Two of L.J.'s uncles are serving in Iraq and Afghanistan. At the airport, before L.J. stabilized, Amy Sanchez got to talk to one of those brothers by phone. He wanted to know the type of plane. She read off some numbers from a wing.

"That's a C-17," her brother told her. "Oh yeah, that's a good plane."

It helped, she said, a little.

Two months later, L.J. has had three surgeries and a head-to-toe bone scan. In the first week of February, doctors found more infection in his arm and created a hole to pump antibiotics in directly to the spot.

The next week, surgeons cleaned out more of the bacteria from his right hip-joint. Then they put the 7-year-old in a hip-to-foot cast to keep the leg stable, Amy Sanchez said. He must wear it for at least a month, she said. It was a setback. Until then, L.J. had begun to walk a little.

But the family remains hopeful. L.J. has started to gain back some of the 10 pounds he lost. With physical therapy and a few months of antibiotics therapy, L.J.'s doctors think he will make a full recovery.

For his part, L.J. is watching too many cartoons and still worried that everyone let him miss Christmas, Sanchez said.

"Why didn't you wake me up?" he has asked his mom as January passed into February.

"We were trying," she replied. "You were in a deep sleep."

Christmas is still waiting for L.J. in Saipan. His presents are still there, along with two younger sisters. They've been living with their grandmothers while Amy and Lionel Sanchez stay at a hotel near the Kapiolani Children's Hospital in Hawaii.

With the therapy, it may be months before the family can reunite, Amy Sanchez said.

"We're still crossing our fingers," she said.

Air Force Capt. Andrea Whitney, another flight nurse from the Kadena crew, has kept in touch with the family. A few weeks ago, she finally got to speak to L.J. on the phone.

Recounted Whitney: "He said, 'Thanks for the ride.'"

ATTENTION PTI SUBSCRIBERS

Due to new Consumer Proprietary Network Information regulations, account information is protected. If your account is being paid in Customer Service by anyone other than the subscriber listed on the billing statement, the payment slip MUST be presented.

Cashiers and other PTI personnel will NO LONGER be able to give balances or account information to anyone other than the subscriber of record without permission.

NOTISIA PARA TODO PTI SUBSCRIBERS

Pot I nuebu na Consumer Proprietary Network Information regulasyon, ma protetehi i yomu account. Komo otro na petsunat umapapasi i yomu account gi Customer Service fera nu i prefektu gaige gi billing statement, debi na hu ma presenta i Payment Slip gi tendera. I tendera yan representanten PTI ti sina esta ma na'hi infotmasyon para otro petsunat fera ni hago sin petmasyon.

PAALALA SA LAHAT NG PTI SUBSCRIBERS

Dahil sa panibagong regulasyon ng Consumer Proprietary Network Information, ang anumang impormasyon ukol sa inyong account ay protektado. Kung ang inyong account ay binabayaran sa Customer Service ng nino man maliban sa may-ari ng account, ang PTI payment slip ay kailangang ipakita. Ang mga kahera at iba pang empleyado ng PTI ay hindi na maaaring magbigay ng balanse o ng anumang impormasyon ukol sa inyong account sa kanino man maliban sa may-ari ng account ng walang pahintulot.

PTI顧客の皆様へ

新しい消費者ネットワーク情報保護法(Consumer Proprietary Network Information regulations)により、アカウント情報が保護されることになりました。もし、あなたのアカウントについて Billing Statementに記載された加入者以外の方がカスタマーサービスセンターで支払う場合には、Payment Slipが必要になります。今後は、許可なく加入者以外の人にアカウント情報に関し話す事が出来なくなりましたので、宜しくご了承ください

고객님께 알립니다

고객님의 개인 재산 보호법과 관련하여 다른 고객 분이 오셔서 대신 요금을 내실 때에는 꼭 전화요금 청구서와 함께 내셔야 합니다. 캐셔와 다른 PTI 직원들은 본인의 구좌가 아니면 허락 없이 전화요금 내역 또는 정보를 본인 이외의 타인에게 절대 알려 줄 수 없습니다.

PTI 用户提示

根据新客户网络信息权责规定，客户账户信息将予以保护。如前往客服支付费用的人员，不是客户付款声明书中指定的人员，须出示缴费卡。如没有经过客户书面授权 PTI 收银员或其他工作人员，将不再提供任何账户及客户信息。



Customer Care: 682-4PTI (4784)
www.pticom.com

Sales of used cars rise by 33 percent

A day after reporting that new car sales soared an incredible 54 percent, the Commonwealth Automobile Dealer Association had more good news, this time from the used car front.

According to figures submitted by CADA, used car sales rose by 33 percent in February 2008 after Microl Corp., Joeten Motors, and Triple J Motors managed to sell 45 units compared to 30 units in the same period last year.

"Used car sales continued to see gains in February. The three dealers sold a total of 45 units compared to 30 units last February which represents an increase of 33-percent for the month," reported CADA president and Joeten Motors general manager Matthew Deets.

Triple J Motors led the way with 19 second-hand vehicles sold last month, which represents 42.2 percent of the market. For the year,

Several notches below the Garapan company is Microl Corp. with 16 used cars disposed off last month and 27 for the year. It owned 35.6 percent of the market last February.

Joeten Motors had 10 used cars sold last month, which represented 22.2 percent of the market. For the year, the San Jose auto dealership has sold 27 second-hand cars.

CADA reported Tuesday that new car sales soared to 71 units last February after years of being stagnant. The 25-unit increase was the first month of positive growth in the CNMI automobile market since June 2005 and the highest total sales in the past 18 months.

Joeten Motors is the distributor for Nissan, Ford, Honda, and Kia. Microl Toyota distributed Toyota and Chevrolet. Triple J sells Mazda, Hyundai, Mitsubishi, and Suzuki. *(Mark Rabago)*

Tudela signs a second sister-cities agreement with India

By **RIANNE PANGELINAN-BROWN**
rianne_pangelinan@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Saipan Mayor Juan B. Tudela, who traveled to India for the first time, signed a second "Sister City" agreement with a city in the sub-continent.

Tudela said the second agreement, which he signed with Mayor Kumar Meghreg Tahaliani of Nadiad, will open opportunities for Saipan residents to access hospitals in India specializing in heart and kidney surgery that are affiliated with universities in the United States.

During the historic trip, which was funded by the Indian business community, Tudela visited the local city and county governments and parliament and met local officials.

He said that he also met with a "wide range of officials and toured facilities and discussed possible technical assistance and training as well as investment and business opportunities on Saipan."

Tudela also paid a courtesy visit to Ahmedabad city's Sabarmati Power Station, which provides electrical power to the city's 5.5 million residents.

Expressing concern about Saipan's continuing electrical power problems, Tudela discussed the possibility of extending technical assistance to the CNMI.

In particular, the officials are now studying Saipan's power needs and plan to submit in the near future a proposal to finance

and construct a new power plant on Saipan and sell electrical power to the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.

The mayor also paid courtesy visits to the state of Gujarat's only school for the deaf, where he said he was treated to a colorful singing and dance performance by students.

He also visited Ahmedabad city's Museum of Mahatma Gandhi, called the "Father of India," where he was interviewed by TV9, a nationwide television corporation.

In signing the latest accord, Tudela noted that Saipan enjoys such relationships with cities in Japan, Korea, Taiwan and China. However, Saipan's small Indian community has repeatedly urged him to reach beyond South Asia and into India for the first time.

Tudela signed the first agreement with the City of Ahmedabad on Feb. 2, 2008, when its Mayor, Amit Shah, made his first visit to Saipan.

He said that the "the historic agreements are expected to promote investment in the CNMI, generate tourism, cultural and student exchange visits, technical assistance in the areas of advance technology, agriculture, fisheries, and more."

These sister-cities agreements, Tudela said, will "establish mutual ties of cooperation, mutual assistance, and to share cultural ties, information exchange, technical assistance and other areas beneficial to both cities."



2008 MISS MARIANAS TEEN

15 lovely contestants of the 2008 Miss Marianas Teen Pageant gather for a photo after the Talent competition at the Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe Saturday night. In photo are Raquel Villagomez, Sakurako Halstead, Marie Jo Tarope, Leilani Cepeda, Christina Shaunte Tudela, Renee Ann Manibusan, Pearlyn Joy Techur, Ashley Renae Fujihira, Ariel St. Claire, Monishia Marie Santos, Crystal Blare Mendiola, Lola Ngeskebei, Francine Tomei, Mariah Lynn Ngirba-bul and Ashley Castro. The pageant will be held on Saturday, March 8 from 6pm to 10pm at the Palms Resort Saipan Theater Hall.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Saipan Mayor Juan Borja Tudela (seated, right) with Nadiad city Mayor Kumar Meghraj Tahaliani. Standing, left to right, Saipan investor Dinsha Patel of San Francisco and spouse, staff Rinku Shah, Saipan businessman Antony Glad, Joyce Glad, and Saipan Mayor's Office staff Jose Tenorio.

Music Every Thursday Night

FEATURING THE W&V BAND and SON as lead singer.

Band can sing any and every kind of music. Requested songs will be entertained.

Local Music Start 7pm until

Tequila Shots \$2.50 • Beer \$2.00 ALL NIGHT

Bud's Bar
Family Friendship. Customers First.

Join the movement to protect our islands' natural resources.



Plastic bags can last for hundreds of years and many shoppers use 3 or more for their groceries. It's a major environmental problem when plastic bags end up in our marine waters that eventually lead to the suffocation of marine mammals and sea birds. On land, plastic bag litter can block drains and trap birds. They also kill livestock. Plastic bags are also commonly found in nearly all beaches on Saipan, Tinian and Rota. The bags end up in landfills and emit harmful greenhouse gases.

This message is brought to you by the Division of Environmental Quality.
Call us at 664-8500 or visit us at www.deq.gov.mp today!



Do your part by helping to reduce the use of plastic bags. It's simple and easy to use cloth bags! And you can be a winner!

Bring your own bag when shopping at any Joeten Store or Carmen Safeway and you will receive a chance to win a \$25 gift certificate.

Tinian Dog Control penalizes two

Tinian Dog Control Program Officers issued citations to two individuals on March 3 for violation of DCP rules and regulations, resulting in penalties of at least \$100 each.

This was the first time a citation has ever been issued to a Tinian resident for noncompliance since the enactment of the dog control program in November 2006. More citations are expected to follow.

According to DCO's Jason N. Ayuyu and Donovan Borja, "We were given no choice, these individuals have been warned more than once to tie their dogs but failed to do so. Now they must pay a fine of no less than \$100 dollars."

Tinian Mayor Jose P. San Nicholas is reminding everyone on the island who owns a dog or is in custody of one or more

dog(s) that ample time has been given to the community to comply with the new local law.

"Therefore, effective immediately, this shall serve as official notification to the public that citations will be issued to anyone who fails to comply with DCP rules and regulations. Furthermore, be advised that DCO officers perform night patrols on a regular basis and will be actively pursuing all violators," said San Nicolas in a statement issued yesterday.

Based on current data, Tinian Local Law 12-1, also known as the Tinian Dog Control Program, has had a very successful start. Since the program's official implementation in November 2006, more than 350 dogs have been registered and that number continues to rise on a weekly basis.

Records also indicate that over 100 unwanted, stray or feral dogs have been euthanized.

Additionally, Tinian Dog Control Officers disposed of over 10 road kills. "Forever gone are the days when dead animals were left to rot on our highways and byways," said San Nicolas.

Since the program's inception, a significant number of public notices, press releases and brochures have been published and distributed throughout the municipality to promote public awareness. Additionally, the municipality's Dog Control Officers have also been actively involved in personally informing all known dog owners, or those in custody of dogs to register their dogs and comply with all provisions as set forth in the Act.

"Overall, the program has received tremendous community support. Unfortunately, we still encounter a few people who claim they lack any knowledge of Tinian Local Law 12-1. Unfortunately, ignorance cannot be used as justification for non-compliance," the mayor said.

For information or appointments to register one's dog(s), call the office of the Tinian Dog Control Program at 433-1806 during regular working hours, Monday through Friday (except on weekends and holidays). The office is located on the second floor of the Tinian Mayor's Office. (PR)

Cooking contest registration ends Monday

The Cook A Rainbow Challenge registration ends on Monday, March 10, 2008.

Registration forms are available at www.deq.gov.mp or by calling the Diabetes Office at 664-4030. The forms must be submitted no later than 4pm on Monday, March 10, attention to Tayna B. Camacho or Ling Rabauliman at the CNMI-Diabetes Prevention and Control Program located at Navy Hill #N-16 (across the old Lighthouse). Entries may also be submitted via fax at 664-4020.

Judging will be based on taste, creative presentation, texture, use of fresh local ingredients and originality. This year, participants will need to include a reef fish in their recipes.

The contest takes place on Saturday, March 29, at the Sabalu Market in Susupe and is coordinated by the Ayuda Network, CNMI Diabetes Prevention and Control Program, NMC-CREES, PSS-Headstart, DPH-Breast and Cervical Cancer Program and the Commonwealth Cancer Association.

For more information about the Cook A Rainbow Challenge, contact Camacho or Rabauliman at 664-4030. For information about the International Year of the Reef, contact Reina Camacho at 664-8500. (DEQ)

Guam GOP to hold state convention

The Republican Party of Guam will hold its State Convention this Saturday, March 8.

The convention will take place at the Nikko Hotel from 2pm to 5pm.

Items to be discussed will include:

- The election of new state party officers, including Chairperson, National Committeewoman and National Committeewoman.
- The election of delegates to the Republican National Convention to be held in Sept. 1-4 in Minneapolis. (www.gopconvention.com)
- The pledging of support to a Republican presidential candidate. (PR)

Comments sought on legislative initiatives

The House Committee on Natural Resources is soliciting public comments for the following House Legislatives Initiatives:

1. H.L.I. No. 16-3: To amend Sections 3, 4, 5, and 6 of Article XI of the Constitution of the Northern Mariana Islands.
2. H.L.I. No. 16-4: To amend Article XII, Section 3 of the Constitution of the Northern Mariana Islands in order to change the term permitted for transfer of a leasehold interest in private lands.
3. H.L.I. No. 16-5: To amend Section 4 of Article X of the Constitution of the Northern Mariana Islands.
4. H.L.I. No. 16-8: To amend Article XII of the Constitution of the Northern Mariana Islands

by adding a new Section 7 to allow each senatorial district to amend or repeal the restrictions on alienation of land with respect to its senatorial district.

Comments may be submitted through:

- Drop-off at Rep. Ramon A. Tebuteb's office at the Legislative Bldg.
 - Mail to P.O. Box 500586, Saipan, MP 96950, Attention Rep. Ramon A. Tebuteb
 - Email: rtebuteb@yahoo.com
 - Fax: 664-8985
- Comments are due on or before March 28, 2008.
- Copies of the initiatives can be downloaded from Rep. Joseph N. Camacho's website at www.camachocnmi.com or you

may contact the Legislative Bureau Librarian at 322-8840 or Rep. Ramon A. Tebuteb's Office at 664-8983.

For additional information, contact the members of the House Committee on Natural Resources.

- Rep. Ramon A. Tebuteb, chairman, 664-8983
- Rep. Diego T. Benavente, vice chairman, 664-8890
- Rep. Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero, member, 664-8978
- Rep. Joseph N. Camacho, member, 664-8806
- Rep. David M. Apatang, member, 664-8899
- Rep. Raymond D. Palacios, member, 664-8897
- Rep. Oscar M. Babauta, member, 664-8829

TOURISM INTERNS

Joshua Dela Cruz, left, and JD Arriola join the Marianas Visitors Authority team as Tourism Interns through the MHS Cooperative Education program. Both interns are receiving work experience training at the MVA from January to May 2008. This is one of the many outreach programs that MVA participates in to encourage the youth to join the tourism industry.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Palau sets election-related deadlines

The Republic of Palau has scheduled several dates for the upcoming elections in 2008 and is informing all Palauans residing in the CNMI of these dates so they can participate.

- General Election - Nov. 4, 2008
- Primary Election - Sept. 23, 2008
- Registration of voters - Close on Sept. 5, 2008 at 4:30pm at the Palau Election Commission Office. Palauans over 18 years old and residing in the CNMI

may register to vote by picking up an "Affidavit Application To Register To Vote Form" at the Palau Consulate-CNMI. Contact the Consulate at 235-6804 to get more information.

- Filing Nominating Petitions - Close on Aug. 6, 2008
- Request for Absentee Ballots - Close on Oct. 28, 2008
- 2008 elections for states
- Sonsorol State (7th General Election) - Feb. 29, 2008
- Kayangel State (13th General Election) - May

- Hatohebei State (7th General Election) - May 23, 2008
 - Ngiwal (7th General /13th Leg. Election) - August
 - Ngarchelong (13th Legislative Election) - August
 - Angaur (14th General Election) - November
 - Peleliu (10th General Election) - December
 - Ngardmau (7th General Election), December
- For those states without exact dates, the Consulate said it will come out with a notice later on. (PR)

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

MARCH 6, 2000

Bank assets near \$600M mark

While economic indicators point to flat growth, the Commonwealth's half-a-billion dollar banking industry is inching its way to the \$600 million-mark, indicating a strong financial infrastructure in the Northern Marianas. Bank assets registered consistent growth in each of the four quarters last year, reaching \$589.9 million as of end-December 1999, up from the previous quarter figure of \$571 million.

Consortium opposes revival of 80-MW power project

An attempt by lawmakers to restore the mothballed 80-megawatt Saipan power project is courting yet stiff opposition as at least two leading bidders have urged Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio to veto their measure due to questions on a provision that could eliminate competition. The consortium of Tomen, Singapore Power, Alsons and Tan Holdings Corp. wrote a letter to the governor to lobby against passage of Senate Bill 12-19 which is pending before his office for approval.

NMI gets less fed grants than other US territories

The Northern Marianas government receives less federal funds than any other U.S. insular areas and has the lowest per capita in terms of the amount granted by Washington, according to the governor's press office. In a statement released Friday, the Public Information Office of Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio cited figures from local and federal government sources as well financial reports and other private research, most of which done in 1997, to back up its claims.

MARCH 6, 2001

Church: Guard morality

Traditional values in this predominantly Catholic society is now besieged with the emergence of people whose diverse moral backgrounds have apparently brought about rapid shifts to CNMI's moral belief system. Bishop Tomas Camacho signaled the warning yesterday amid escalating concerns of what is perceived to be a growing moral decay in the Northern Marianas, particularly with the proliferation of prostitution in the Western Garapan district.

DLNR lifts FSM food ban

Lands and Natural Resources officials yesterday lifted restrictions imposed on certain food products coming in from the Federated States of Micronesia. Following reports of complete eradication of cholera epidemic in the State of Pohnpei, DLNR Secretary Joaquin S. Tenorio canceled latest Emergency Order of Quarantine signed in February 6, this year.

Marpi landfill project faces another delay

The CNMI is not likely to witness the closure of Puerto Rico dump sooner due to lack of funding and functional budget that would pave the road for the completion of the new solid waste facility in Marpi. Solid Waste Task Force Chair and Lt. Gov. Jesus R. Sablan disclosed the Marpi Landfill and the Transfer Station/Recycling Facility are running behind project schedule of about 12 months.

MARCH 6, 2002

No to matching CIP requirement

One of the primary issues that could be raised during the upcoming Section 902 talks with the U.S. government is removing the matching requirement for Capital Improvement Program funds. This is besides pushing for a possible increase in CIP funding levels, said acting Gov. Diego T. Benavente yesterday, who quickly added that this may, however, be tough.

DLNR runs after boat owners with delinquent boating slips

With depleting government coffers and the economy reeling from a crisis, local agencies—including the Marina office of the Department of Lands and Natural Resources—are resolute in enforcing revenue generating measures, such as collection of unpaid bills from delinquent boat owners. Marianne Teregeyo, public information officer of the Department of Lands and Natural Resources, said there are at least 10 boat owners who are delinquent in paying their bills in connection with their boating slips.

JOETEN'S BEST BUYS

March 6 thru 12

OF THE WEEK!



OUR ONE-STOP SHOPPING CENTER

JOETEN
ACE
HARDWARE

New Arrival! Hot Buy! Sale!



16-inch Stand Fan
\$24.99
sku# 66807



20-inch Box Fan
\$22.00
sku# 63858

Department Store



Holmes Blizzard Central Power Fan
\$34.99



Holmes Slim Tower Fan
\$38.99



Holmes 16 inch Stand Fan
\$24.99



Pomair 10 inch Box Fan
\$12.99

GENUINE PARTS. GENUINE SERVICE. GENUINE IND.

ALL BRAKE PADS AND BRAKE SHOES

20% off



POWER 65 Battery



As low as \$75.95

Call 234-1179 or Visit Us

Our New Location at Joeten Motors!

Limited offer, while supplies last.



AUTO PARTS
MARIANAS NAPA, INC.

WE SELL PARTS FOR ALL KINDS OF CARS & TRUCKS

Supermarket!

TILAPIA
89¢/lb.



MILK FISH
\$1.19/lb.



Fish and Seafood



SUSUPE SHOPPING CENTER
TEL.: 234-6446
THRU SAT. 8:00AM.-9:00PM. / SUN. 8:00AM.-7:00PM.

DANDAN SUPERMARKET
TEL.: 235-6016
MON. THRU SAT. 8:00AM.-9:00PM.

HABA-ADAI SHOPPING CENTER
TEL.: 234-7596
MON. THRU SUN. 8:00AM.-11:00PM.

BIG BARGAIN STORE
TEL.: 235-5372
MON. THRU SUN. 8:00AM.-9:00PM.



GUALO RAI BRANCH
Gualo Rai Commercial Center
Tel.: 235-9322 Fax: 235-9325

SAN VICENTE BRANCH
San Vicente Road
Tel.: 234-3176 Fax: 235-1686

SUSUPE BRANCH
Susupe Shopping Center
Tel.: 234-3117 Fax: 235-7668



Joeten Motors
POWERED BY YOU

Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XVIII, Issue No. 66Published daily at 2/F CIC Centre,
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950Lynn A. Knight PUBLISHER
Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
Mark Rabago ASSISTANT EDITOR

MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

The mandate debate

The question of whether individuals should be required or simply encouraged to obtain health insurance sounds like a minor distinction. But the disagreement between Sens. Hillary Rodham Clinton and Barack Obama over an individual mandate (she wants one, he doesn't) is worth examining. It represents the central policy difference between two candidates who agree on most other things, and the current argument has implications for health-care debates long after the nomination battle is concluded.

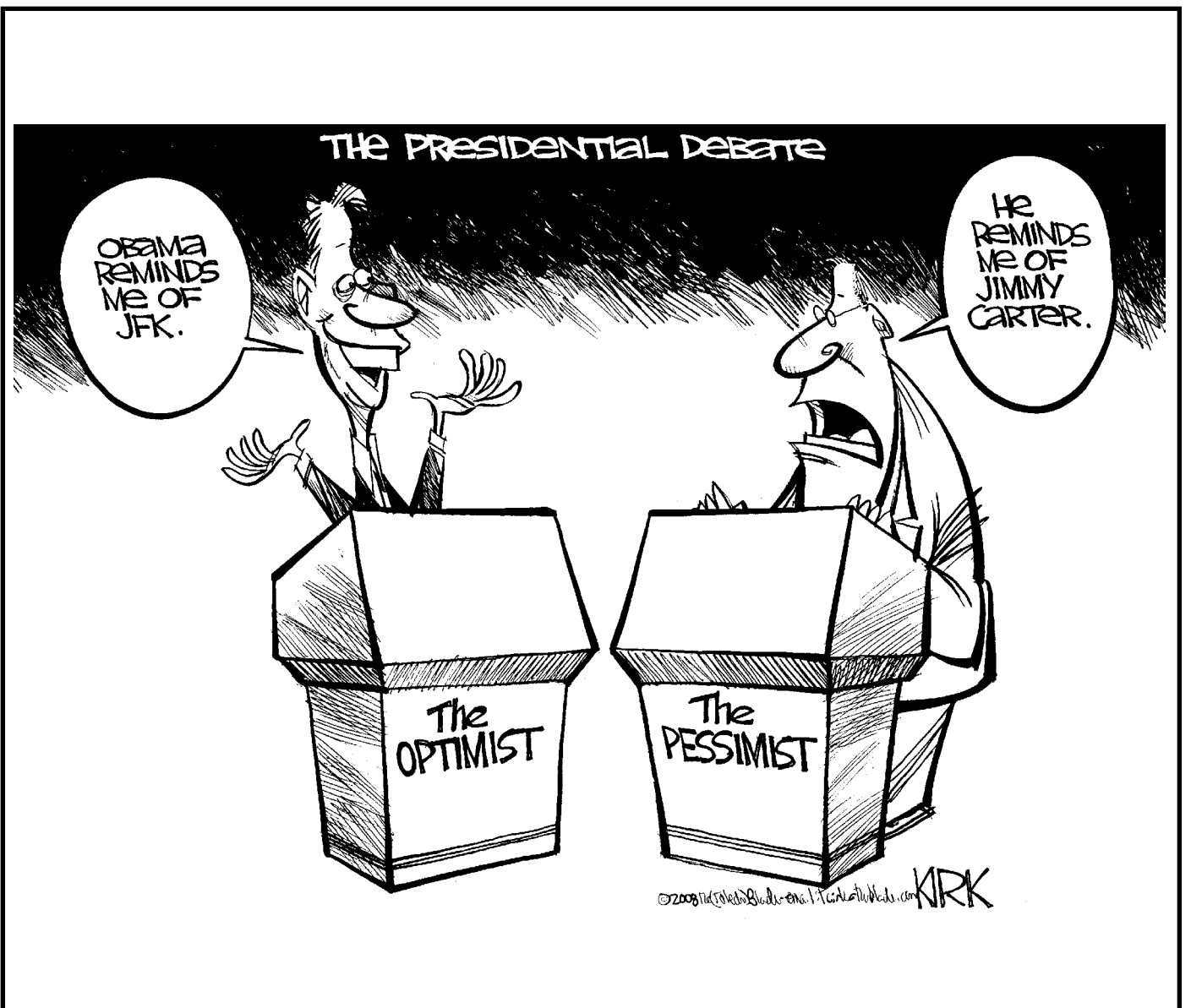
The Clinton and Obama health-care plans have more similarities than differences. But where Mr. Obama would require only that parents obtain coverage for their children, Ms. Clinton would impose that mandate on everyone. The argument for such a requirement is that, without it, too many people, especially those who are younger and healthier, will go without coverage, knowing that they can always get insurance down the road. This would drive up health-care costs by shifting costs incurred by these free-riders to those with insurance, and by depriving insurance companies of premiums paid by the healthiest beneficiaries. Ms. Clinton asserts that without the individual mandate, Mr. Obama's plan would end up leaving out 15 million Americans, about one-third of those currently uninsured. Mr. Obama says the differential would be far smaller; that he would consider an individual mandate if the numbers left uninsured turned out to be too large; and that imposing a mandate at the outset is unwise because enough people will purchase insurance voluntarily if costs can be brought down.

Although we find the arguments for the individual mandate more persuasive, this is an issue on which reasonable candidates can differ. The problem is that neither of the Democratic candidates is being particularly reasonable in campaign rhetoric.

Ms. Clinton accuses Mr. Obama of not being for universal coverage; this is unfair since he has asserted, unlike John McCain, that universal coverage is his goal but that he disagrees with Ms. Clinton about the best way to get there. Mr. Obama asserts that "Hillary's health-care plan forces everyone to buy insurance, even if you can't afford it . . . and you pay a penalty if you don't." This is even more unfair. Ms. Clinton has given Mr. Obama an opening by being deliberately squishy on key details, such as enforcement. But the Clinton plan envisions limits, albeit unspecified, on how much of their income people can be required to pay for insurance.

There are legitimate questions about both the Clinton and Obama plans: in particular whether they make unrealistically low assumptions about the ultimate price tag (Ms. Clinton puts hers at \$110 billion annually; Mr. Obama says his will cost \$50 billion to \$65 billion) and unrealistically high assumptions about how much they can save by bringing costs under control (Ms. Clinton credits her plan with \$56 billion; Mr. Obama claims an extremely optimistic \$120 billion.) The Democratic candidates' time would be better spent explaining how their visions are achievable, not taking potshots at each other.

(c) 2008, The Washington Post



THE Critical Success Factor

"What one skill, if you did it in an excellent way, would have the greatest positive impact on your organization?"

So many important matters compete for your time and attention in business that it often becomes difficult to narrow your focus on those things that matter most. Without focus, the energy of your team will dissipate into activities that have little to do with achieving the mission and goals of your organization.

One way to stay focused is to identify your Critical Success Factors (CSFs). These are the essential areas of activity that you must perform well to remain competitive and stay on target. This requires everyone in your organization to have the skills to accomplish the essential activities. Some examples of CSFs include: acquiring new distributors, developing quality products, retaining key staff members, securing financing for growth opportunities, expanding the existing market, improving intellectual capital, etc.

Last week, we sent a survey to over 150 individuals to get their opinion concerning various work skills. They were asked to rate each skill as essential, important or good. When the results came in, we were not surprised that "customer service" led the other choices by a wide margin with 92 percent saying it was essential and the other eight percent stating it was important.

A CSF that should be the common denominator of all organizations is outstanding customer service. Unfortunately, the common denominator of almost all organizations is the belief and practice of exceptional service to their customers. Peter Drucker believed that the purpose of business is to create and keep customers. No customers translates into no sales, which leads to no business. If you don't have people doing business with you, you won't be doing business – period.

Your bottom line is linked to topnotch service. Good service translates into increasing sales. Customers may first visit your business because of the products you offer, but they will decide to come back based on how well they are treated. If your service to customers is mediocre, then you're categorized in their mind as a commodity business that can easily be discarded when a better, faster, cheaper alternative is found.

How are your customer service skills? If you were to give yourself a score between 1 and 10, with 10 being the highest, how would your customers and employees rank your business?

Customer service is actually a generic term that involves a number of other sub-skills that combine to create a memorable experience for your customers. Some companies focus on

By RIK and JANEL VILLEGAS

Rik is a business instructor at NMC and Janel is a partner with BizResults, LLC (www.bizresults.org). Additional comments can be found at bizresults.blogspot.com, and they can be contacted at biz_results@yahoo.com.



"smiles training" to make sure employees greet their customers in a friendly manner. Dolphin Wholesale on Saipan is a good example. No matter how busy they are, you can't walk into the store without a cashier welcoming you.

The initial contact is important, but there are many other points of contact that can make or break the sale. Organizations differ on which ones are the most important, and some of the best companies excel by focusing their efforts on a primary skill to help them stand out from their competition. For example, when Tom Monaghan started a pizza business in 1960, he was able to gain an advantage by locating it near a college campus full of hungry students. Several years later, he focused on serving his customers better by perfecting delivery speed, which rocketed Domino's Pizza to meteoric success. Monaghan's guarantee for fast, home delivery in 30 minutes or less became a service standard that was difficult for others to follow.

In summary, Critical Success Factors are the areas in your business that are absolutely essential to its success. By identifying, communicating, and following up on your CSFs, you ensure the organization is focused on the things that matter most, and avoids wasting effort and resources on things that matter least. One CSF that every organization should focus on is their service to both internal and external customers. This can be done by identifying the areas of service that are valued most and then helping everyone in the organization to develop the necessary skills, knowledge, and abilities to fulfill those service areas.

We believe that this one CSF is essential to every business, and it will have positive long-term impact by complementing every other thing you do to sustain or grow your business. If you don't believe it, just put it to the test by developing the skills of your staff to provide better service. We guarantee it will make a difference, or we'll refund the fifty-cents it cost to buy this paper.

(To view the complete results from the Work Skills Survey we sent last week, go to bizresults.blogspot.com.)

EDITORIAL POLICY

The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, CIC Centre, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

A little something for the ladies

You know how ladies, when they don't get what they want, can go a little crazy? Am I right, fellas? Right now, they're pretty upset about losing their first chance at a female president. This would have empowered little girls, shattered sexist beliefs about female incompetence and forced men around the world to view a woman as an agent of power instead of a sex object—all of which, it turns out, are important to women even though they buy *Star* magazine. Ladies are complicated.

Because women do most of the voting, and the shopping and the TV watching and the book reading—porn really must take up a lot of men's time—they need to be placated. Which shouldn't be hard. You know how when your dog dies, your wife wants to get a puppy right away? That's what America has to do. We need a replacement Hillary.

Because while women are sad that Hillary Clinton seems poised to lose the Democratic nomination, they're even more dejected that there appear to be no women with enough political stature to run for president next time. That's why Barack Obama and John McCain need to pick female running mates. Either that or we're going to have to find some money in the federal budget for 150 million flower bouquets.

Most Americans only notice politicians in a presidential campaign (who's more famous: House Minority Leader John Boehner or Chairman of the Domestic Policy Subcommittee of the House

Committee on Oversight and Government Reform Dennis Kucinich?), so a female vice presidential candidate would instantly become a front-runner in 2012 or 2016. This plan is so foolproof it even worked for a little while for Joe Lieberman.

Sure, Sen. Jim Webb, the former secretary of the Navy, might make Obama look a tiny bit more commander-in-chief, and Mike Huckabee might make McCain appear a little more gay-hatey, but those are calculations you make when you don't have a nation of ticked-off women to contend with. In 2003, Kobe Bryant wasn't worrying about whether he should pass more to Rick Fox or Derek Fisher; he was just looking for the biggest damn diamond he could find.

Luckily, there are lots of good female veep options for both candidates, though they have to be careful not to pick someone so old that they will die in eight years and therefore be ineligible to run for president. That's usually a tough find in a politician—the one job we, for some reason, let old people do—but it turns out women live a ridiculously long time. Sure, Democrat Sen. Dianne Feinstein will turn 83 in 2016, and Republican Sen. Elizabeth Dole will turn 80, but that's prime aqua aerobics time. If women of that age couldn't run a meeting, there would be no functional condo clubhouses in Fort Lauderdale.

But there's also a pick of young chicks. For Obama, it could be Arizona Gov. Janet Napolitano, Kansas Gov. Kathleen Sebelius, spunky Louisiana Sen. Mary Landrieu, Missouri Sen. Claire McCa-

By JOEL STEIN

Special to the Los Angeles Times

Stein is a columnist for the Times.



skill or Washington Sen. Patty Murray. And if he really cared about making ladies happy: Oprah Winfrey. Congressional sessions will be a lot more exciting if the Senate president is pointing at people and yelling, "You get a tax rebate! You get a tax rebate! And you get a tax rebate!"

McCain could go with Maine Sen. Olympia Snowe, Texas Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison, fightin' Condoleezza Rice, former EPA chief Christine Todd Whitman or—in a choice designed to please both genders—Alaska Gov. Sarah Palin, who is the best-looking non-Romney governor in our nation's history.

Will a female vice president really satisfy women? Of course not. But what does? The point is that we'll be showing them we understand that their frustration is legitimate, and that we're hearing them, and that we're ready to listen. That stuff will totally buy us until November.

Letters to the Editor

Open letter to New Mexico Sen. Jeff Bingaman

Dear Senator Bingaman:

As a former resident of New Mexico (during the late '70s and early '80s), I still feel a closeness to the beauty and cultural diversity of the Southwest. Back then, I worked in the ER at BCMC and, later, the ER at Presbyterian. Many wonderful memories during my time spent in New Mexico.

However, the purpose of this letter is not to reminisce over my days in New Mexico; rather, I wish to provide you with a different perspective than those business leaders from Saipan who recently spoke to your Senate Committee on Energy and National Affairs.

I have been living in the beautiful Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas for the last 11 years; it is home for me and my wife. And it is here on Saipan where I work and live and have witnessed the deterioration of the economy, rapidly worsening during the last several years. The business leaders of Saipan came to you requesting that there be a two-year moratorium of the federal wage hike. They tell of the poor economy because of JAL pulling out, the increased oil costs, the closing of the garment factories, and a host of other supposed causes of our declining economy. They tell of how our economy will collapse if the wage hike is initiated. But, there is another side to that story.

The price of goods, utilities, rent, and oil are all significantly higher here on Saipan, when compared to anywhere in the U.S. The wages, however, are among the lowest paid. The hourly wage will not even pay for a gallon of gas. The vast majority of the people on Saipan are for the proposed wage hike. Many cannot afford utilities. Those of us fortunate enough to have decent jobs are living...well, decently. Perhaps not much longer.

And why does this economic disaster exist? The majority of government officials are corrupt and work only to enrich themselves, their families and their supporters. The business leaders would have you think that the wage hike would bankrupt them. The reality is that they want to continue to make substantial profits on the backs of those working at substandard wages. They are blinded to the corruption, nepotism, and poor economic planning which has prevailed for so many years in the CNMI and which has created a house of cards...and that house has collapsed. Examples of these misdeeds are legendary. One only needs to review the archives of the newspapers. Or, better yet, to ask the common people whether or not they want the wage hike. And, ask them about the real causes of our current financial ills.

The business leaders and government officials would have you think that the local people of the CNMI are against federalization of immigration, and against changes in the wage structure. They would have you think that federalization and wage hikes are somehow bad for the CNMI. The opposite is true—both would serve to improve the economy and the living standards of the vast majority of the CNMI people. In fact, the people of the CNMI have lost faith in their leaders. They see through the years of corrupt government (call the Office of Internal Auditor for the facts).

So why just hear one side? Send out a team from Washington, free to roam around the CNMI and talk to folks from all walks of

life...not just the business leaders. Or, look up on the website of House Floor Leader Joseph Camacho (www.camachocnmi.com) who has done several online surveys. One of these surveys looks at the federalization issue: a whopping 70 percent of those who responded affirmed that the federal government should handle immigration, while a dismal 27 percent feel that the CNMI government should handle immigration issues. The government would have you think otherwise.

This is only one of many issues where the government does not speak for the majority. Clearly, the folks who came to talk at the Senate hearing were giving only one biased side of the issues; also clearly, the vast majority of the people of CNMI want federalization because they no longer trust their leaders to act fairly, openly, and honestly. Senator Bingaman, I would issue a challenge for your Committee to talk to the working folks on Saipan, Rota, and Tinian.

Regarding the minimum wage issue, did you ever wonder why only the business leaders gave testimony at your committee? Most likely because they have the most to lose (profits); yet the overwhelming majority of CNMI residents have the most to gain—a mere \$.50 a year increase in their hourly wage would significantly help them on the road to economic decency. Maintain the profits of the elite or work toward a reasonable wage for the majority of the peoples of CNMI? What would a compassionate person decide, and what would the democratic principles of America dictate?

Please, Senator Bingaman, do not make a rushed decision regarding the issue of a two-year moratorium on wage hikes. Please come to the CNMI and see for yourself what the real issues are, and what the majority of working people really want. Walk around and randomly ask people in the streets how they feel about the wage hike. Ask if people trust the government and the business leaders (and ask yourself if you really believe that they—the business leaders—gave you a complete and unbiased picture). Ask if people feel that the government and business leaders are truly looking out for the welfare of the folks of the CNMI. You and your Committee would have a much broader and honest picture if you did your own research, rather than trust the elite minority who has much to gain for maintaining the status quo. Once you have seen for yourselves how the government and business leaders are out for their own economic enrichment (which, in fact, is a far greater cause for the current economic deterioration than the closing of the garment industry); and once you have witnessed their self-enrichment at the expense of the majority, you will understand why the majority of CNMI citizens held the largest rally in the history of the Commonwealth to show support for federalization.

Senator Bingaman, do not rush to judgment. Please do your own research, take your time and then come to a reasonable decision. People are starving on this American territory, hardly able to exist on their current, substandard wages. The wealthy businesspeople, government officials along with their families and supporters, the "connected", the corrupt, the selfish, and the morally bankrupt—these are the people who are fighting to keep wages down and their

profits high. Come see how they live. Then visit the "others," those who are desperate to try and feed their families on an hourly wage far below the cost of a gallon of gas. And then see how they live.

Raising the wages yearly until they are consistent with the minimum wages in the U.S. will overall improve the CNMI economy simply by circulating more money. If the government officials were serious about improving the economy, they would slash legislative spending, end the hiring of expensive lobbyists and "consultants," cut out their outrageously pricy, and generally worthless junkets, end nepotism, prosecute those found abusing the taxpayers monies...and the list goes on. The doomsday tactics employed by our illustrious leaders would make one think that the CNMI economy will collapse in a pile of rubble should the wage increases continue. More likely, the economy will prosper. And, more likely, the people of all walks of life in the CNMI will have a little bit more money to improve their living standards...and their dignity.

William Weiss
Puerto Rico, Saipan

Online petition

This letter is in response to Mr. Combin I. Taisakan letter to the editor titled "Ill Concocted Petition" dated March 3, 2008. I respect Mr. Taisakan's opinion. However, I disagree with him. Assistant Fire Chief Juan I Wabol was reinstated as the head of the Fire Division on Feb. 15, 2008. I have talked with several Fire personnel who have expressed dismay at Mr. Wabol's recent reappointment. It is not just a few as Mr. Taisakan stated.

Whether I agree with or like Mr. Wabol is not pertinent, all firefighters including Mr. Wabol has a duty to protect the public and to not remove the ability to procure needed funding. If key personnel, who are responsible for the maintenance of federal grants are permanently removed from their prior assignments then the Fire Division may potentially lose the grants, the Fire Division may also be disqualified from future grants if we default on the grants already received.






The petition is not about Mr. Wabol or I. The petition is borne out of all CNMI citizens and the community's responsibility to preserve and protect the Fire Division. Decisions that are made without consultation of the affected personnel are irresponsible, and has the potential to affect the service that we are mandated to competently provide. I do agree with Mr. Taisakan that the petition is a form of democratic expression. This is why the CNMI community as a whole now has a chance to review the petition and decide for themselves if it is indeed comical. The petition may be viewed at <http://www.gopetition.com/online/17236.html> and you may sign in anonymously if you wish.

Alan J. Elder
Kagman, Saipan

Sattelite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
				
Mostly clear with a slight chance of showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Sunny in the morning then becoming partly sunny. Isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲84° ▼72°	▲82° ▼74°	▲80° ▼74°	▲81° ▼75°	▲82° ▼76°

Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Mostly Sunny	▲82 ▼72
Palau	Cloudy	▲87 ▼77
Yap	Partly Sunny	▲86 ▼76
Chuuk	Partly Sunny	▲87 ▼78
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲84 ▼79
Kosrae	Cloudy	▲88 ▼76
Majuro	Thundershowers	▲88 ▼79

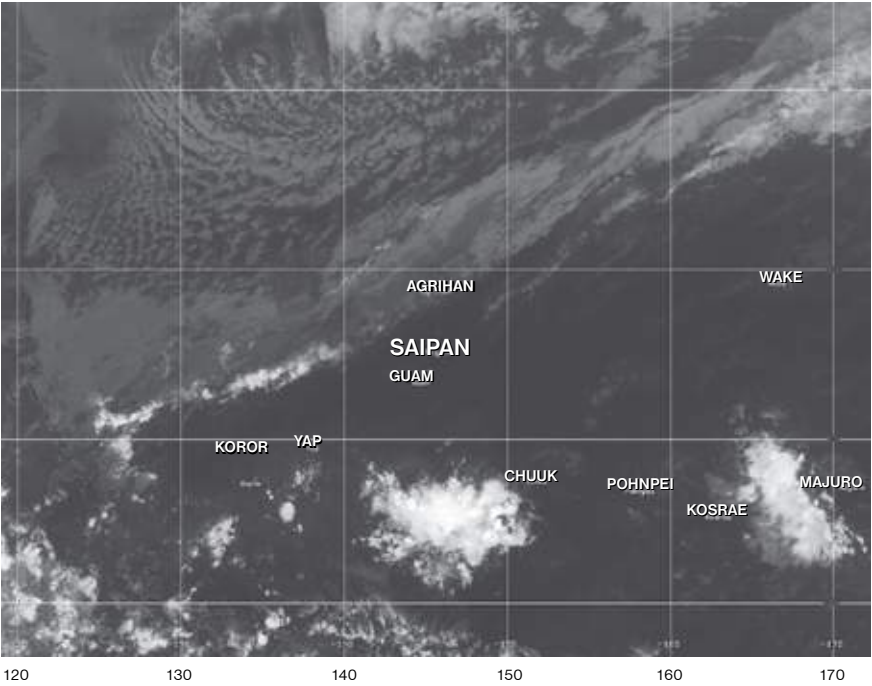
Around The Globe

Auckland	Showers	▲68 ▼57
Beijing	Sunny	▲55 ▼30
Hong Kong	Mostly Sunny	▲73 ▼61
Honolulu	Mostly Sunny	▲79 ▼67
London	Partly Sunny	▲52 ▼45
Los Angeles	Sunny	▲72 ▼49
Manila	Cloudy	▲88 ▼73
Melbourne	Partly Sunny	▲82 ▼57
Miami	Thunderstorms	▲83 ▼72
New York	Partly Sunny	▲50 ▼36
Osaka	Cloudy	▲47 ▼38
Paris	Cloudy	▲48 ▼34
Pusan	Cloudy	▲55 ▼37
Rome	Rain	▲53 ▼41
Salem	Mostly Cloudy	▲55 ▼36
San Francisco	Mostly Sunny	▲63 ▼46
Seoul	Rain/Snow	▲48 ▼30
Tokyo	Mostly Sunny	▲50 ▼37
Washington, DC	Partly Sunny	▲58 ▼39

Tides

Saipan Harbor		
12:47AM Today	Low Tide:	0.2 Feet
07:33AM Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet
01:13PM Today	Low Tide:	1.0 Feet
06:27PM Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, WEDNESDAY, MARCH 5, 2008

Western North Pacific between Equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A cold front stretches from 25N161E to near Pagan in the Northern Marianas at 18N146E then continues as a shear line to beyond 130E at 12N. Cloudiness and scattered showers are found along and up to 350 miles northwest of the front and shear line. A trade-wind disturbance is triggering scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms just southwest of Chuuk between 2N and 7N from 142E to 151E. A surface trough extends northwestward from 1N170E to 10N166E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are occurring between Kosrae and Majuro within 125 miles of a line from 2N170E to 10N165E. Kwajalein is included within this area.

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:31AM	6:26PM
Friday	6:30AM	6:26PM
Saturday	6:30AM	6:26PM
Sunday	6:29AM	6:26PM
Monday	6:28AM	6:26PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	05:14AM	05:05PM
Friday	05:55AM	06:01PM
Saturday	06:35AM	06:56PM
Sunday	07:15AM	07:52PM
Monday	07:57AM	08:51PM

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMUT SARI Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.

CAMPUS BULLETIN

Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when),

the name of contact person, and a phone number.

- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

- E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com or jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com.
- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, CIC Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
- To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

POLICY

- The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to accept or reject a contribution for publication; the right to edit all contributions, the date of publication, size of the picture, and page placement; and the right to publish contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats.
- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website: www.saipantribune.com.

CUSTOMER SERVICE For inquiries, purchase of back issues and complaints, call (670) 235-8747, 235-2440, fax 235-3740.

SUBSCRIPTION Published Monday to Sunday, Saipan Tribune offers door-to-door on-island delivery at an annual rate of \$182. Off-island subscription rate is \$376 per year. For additional subscription information, call (670) 235-8747 or 235-2769, or fax 235-3740.

ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF FEBRUARY 15, 2008

DEPARTURES	ARRIVALS
Saipan-Rota CO 9313 8:30am 9:05am 3,4,7	Rota-Saipan CO 9598 11:10am 11:45am 1,2,6
Saipan-Guam CO9317 5:00am 5:50am Daily CO9597 8:30am 9:20am 1,2,5,6 CO9313 8:30am 10:00am 3,4,7 via Rota CO9601 12:30pm 1:20pm Daily CO9603 3:30pm 4:20pm Daily CO9605 6:30pm 7:20pm Daily CO9599 9:30pm 10:20pm Daily	Guam-Saipan CO 9316 2:30am 3:20am Daily CO9596 7:00am 7:50am Daily CO9598 10:15am 11:45am 1,2,6 via Rota CO9600 10:45am 11:35am 3,4,5,7 CO9602 2:00pm 2:50pm Daily CO9604 5:00pm 5:50pm Daily CO9606 8:00pm 8:50pm Daily
Saipan-Narita NW 078 8:25am 1:30pm Daily via Nagoya NW 075 4:50pm 7:30pm Daily	Narita-Saipan NW 076 10:35am 3:05pm Daily NW 077 6:15pm 1:10am+1 Daily via Nagoya
Saipan-Osaka NW 083 4:30pm 7:25pm Daily	Osaka-Saipan NW 084 10:40am 3:10pm Daily
Saipan-Nagoya NW 078 8:25am 11:05am Daily	Nagoya-Saipan NW 077 8:45pm 1:10am+1 Daily
Saipan-Manila CO 895 4:45pm 6:35pm 6 CO 895 6:45pm 8:35pm 3	Manila-Saipan CO 890 9:15am 2:55pm 6 CO 890 11:45am 5:35pm 3
Saipan-Seoul OZ 604 2:10am 6:00am 1 OZ 604 2:40am 6:30am 2,3,4,5,6,7 OZ 606 3:30pm 7:00pm 2,4,6,7	Seoul-Saipan OZ 605 9:00am 2:30pm 2,4,6,7 OZ 603 7:40pm 1:00am+1 7 OZ 603 8:10pm 1:30am+1 1,2,3,4,5,6
Saipan-Busan OZ 608 4:00am 7:35am 1,4,5,7	Busan-Saipan OZ 607 9:30pm 2:50am+1 3,4,6,7
Saipan-Guanzhou CZ 3008 5:00am 8:00am 2,6	Guanzhou-Saipan CZ 3007 8:00pm 4:00am+1 1,5
Saipan-Shanghai MU 590 4:20am 7:00am 2,6	Shanghai-Saipan MU 589 8:05pm 3:00am+1 1,5
Guam-Manila CO 891 6:00am 10:30am 3 via Yap and Koror CO 893 6:30am 8:05am 6 CO 893 8:25am 10:00am 2,7 CO 893 5:50pm 9:10pm 5 via Koror CO 933 8:00pm 9:40pm Daily PR 111 6:00am 7:45am 1,2,4,6,7	Manila-Guam CO 894 11:20am 4:55pm 2,7 CO 894 7:45pm 1:20am+1 6 CO 892 9:45pm 5:25am+1 3 via Koror CO 892 9:45pm 6:30am+1 3 via Koror and Yap CO 892 10:10pm 5:30am+1 5 via Koror CO 934 11:10pm 4:40am+1 Daily PR 110 10:15pm 4:00am+1 1,3,5,6,7
Guam-Hongkong CO 909 7:45pm 10:40pm 1,5	Hongkong-Guam CO 910 11:40pm 6:20am+1 1,5
Guam-Rota CO 9598 10:15am 10:45am 1,2,6	Rota-Guam CO 9313 9:30am 10:00am 3,4,7

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CO: Continental; PR: Philippine Airlines; CZ: China Southern; CA: Air China; NW: Northwest; JO: Japan Airlines; OZ: Asiana; MU: China Eastern ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota			
FRE 100	7:00am	7:30am	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 100	7:50am	8:20am	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 200	9:00am	9:30am	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 200	9:50am	10:15am	Daily
Guam-Rota			
FRE 300	4:00pm	4:30pm	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 300	4:50pm	5:25pm	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 400	6:00pm	6:30pm	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 400	6:45pm	7:15pm	Daily
Saipan-Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45am	6:55am	Daily
FRE 103	7:30am	7:40am	Daily
FRE 105	8:00am	8:10am	Daily
FRE 107	8:40am	8:50am	Daily
FRE 109*	9:10am	9:20am	Daily
FRE 111*	10:45am	10:55am	Daily
Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily
FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily
FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily
FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily
FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily
FRE 123 *	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily
FRE 125 *	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily
Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**			
FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily
FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily
FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily
FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily
FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily
FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily
FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily
FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily
FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily
FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily
FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily
FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily



NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

Business

Oil falls on OPEC worries, supply view

NEW YORK (AP) -- Oil futures fell sharply Tuesday, dropping below \$100 on the possibility that OPEC will boost production and on expectations that crude inventories are continuing to rise.

Light, sweet crude for April delivery fell \$2.93 to settle at \$99.52 on the New York Mercantile Exchange after dropping as low as \$98.87 earlier. It was crude's first move below the \$100 mark this week and its lowest settlement price since Feb. 25.

Chakib Khelil, president of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries, said the cartel is shying away from boosting production due to expectations that global demand for crude will fall during the second quarter. But some investors are betting the cartel will boost produc-

tion to bring prices down.

OPEC ministers, who meet Wednesday, are worried that soaring oil prices will help push the U.S. into a recession, which would further cut demand for crude.

"Whether enshrined in a formal quota hike or more surreptitious, an OPEC output hike seems a distinctly stronger possibility that the market has apparently priced in," said Antoine Halff, an analyst at Newedge USA LLC in a research note.

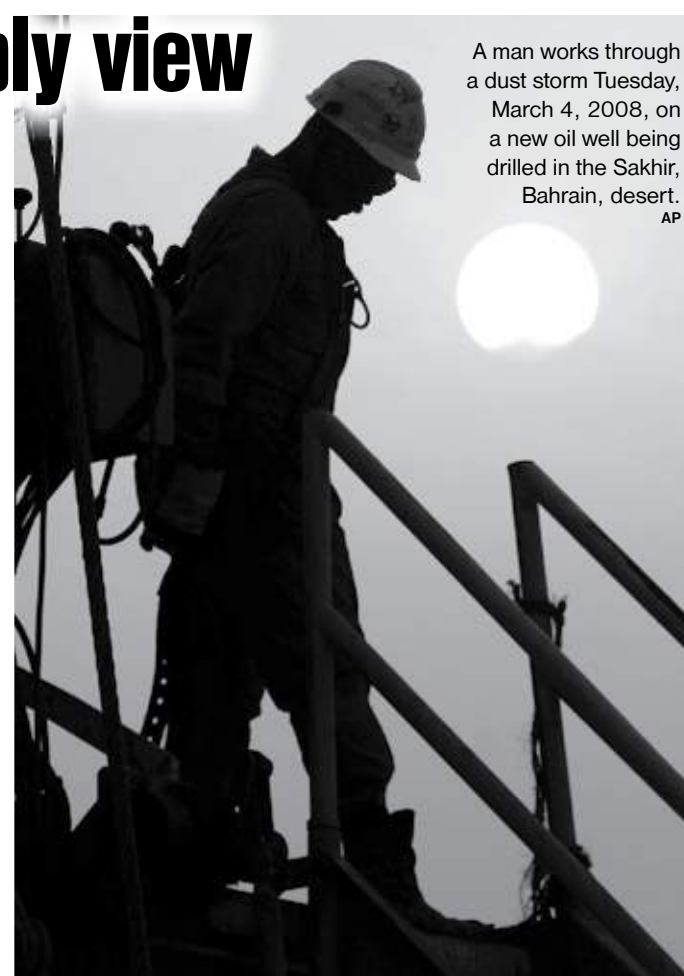
Prices were also pressured by expectations that domestic crude inventories rose by 2.3 million barrels last week, according to analysts surveyed by Dow Jones Newswires. The Energy Department's Energy Information Administration will issue its weekly inventory report

on Wednesday.

EIA Administrator Guy Caruso on Tuesday predicted crude prices will fall to \$57 a barrel by 2016 as exploration and development expands, bringing new supplies to the market.

Prices rose as high as \$103.95 a barrel Monday, climbing past the \$103.76 price many analysts consider to be the true record high for oil after the \$38 per barrel price from 1980 is adjusted for inflation.

Analysts attribute much of the recent runup in oil prices to speculative investors driven to the market by the falling dollar. Crude futures offer a hedge against a falling dollar, and oil futures bought and sold in dollars are more attractive to foreign investors when the greenback is falling. This view of oil futures as a safe haven for money during turbulent times has in many cases rendered reports on inventories and demand moot.



A man works through a dust storm Tuesday, March 4, 2008, on a new oil well being drilled in the Sakhir, Bahrain, desert. AP

Micronesia, fiduciary group to be represented in Amsterdam

TAMUNING, Guam—The Asia Pacific Association for Fiduciary Studies and Micronesia will be represented at the Global Investment Performance Standards Conference to be held in Amsterdam on March 13 and 14.

The conference is held twice a year and is hosted by the CFA Centre for Financial Market Integrity. The last conference was held in Cape Town, South Africa.

The representation comes through the attendance of executive director Daniel A. Roland, CIMA, who is the APAFS representative to the GIPS Council as well as to the Regional Subcommittee representing the Asia Pacific region. The conference will host meetings of the GIPS Executive Committee, the GIPS Council

GIPS exposure at this year's conference. There is no doubt that the reputation of the conference as a vehicle for education and networking is growing by leaps and bounds."

The GIPS Executive Committee ensures that the Standards remain effective, useful, and relevant in the investment industry, responding to new issues as they arise, according to the GIPS Web site. The conference is also intended, Roland said, for the Executive Committee to make any changes to its constitution, which it does from time-to-time, and for it to review operating policies and procedures.

The 2008 Pacific Region Investment Conference will be held in Manila in Oct. 9-10, 2008.

The GIPS standards are a set of standardized, industry-wide ethical principles that provide investment firms with guidance on how to calculate and report their investment results to prospective clients, according to the site.

The GIPS standards were created and are administered by CFA Institute, the global, not-for-profit association of investment professionals that awards the Chartered Financial Analyst (CFA) and Certificate in Investment Performance Measurement (CIPM) designations.

The Asia Pacific Association for Fiduciary Studies Ltd. is a non-profit educational and charitable association founded in 2000 for and by, representatives from public and private institutional funds from around the Asia Pacific Region. More information can be found at www.apafs.org or by calling 1 671 687-8823. (APAFS)



Roland

Bernanke calls for more mortgage relief

WASHINGTON (AP)—Battling a dangerous wave of home foreclosures, Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke called Tuesday for additional relief and urged lenders to help distressed owners by lowering the amount of their loans.



Bernanke

"This situation calls for a vigorous response," Bernanke said in a speech to a banking group meeting in Orlando, Fla.

Even with some relief efforts under way by industry

and government, foreclosures and late payments on home mortgages are likely to rise "for a while longer," Bernanke warned.

Rising foreclosures threaten to worsen the problems in the housing market and for the national economy, which many fear is on the verge of a recession or in one already.

"Reducing the rate of preventable foreclosures would promote economic stability for households, neighborhoods and

the nation as a whole," Bernanke said. "Although lenders and servicers have scaled up their efforts and adopted a wider variety of loss-mitigation techniques, more can, and should, be done," the Fed chief said.

One of the suggestions Bernanke made was for mortgage and other financial companies to reduce the amount of the loan to provide relief to a struggling owner. "Principal reductions that restore some equity for the homeowner may be a relatively more effective means of avoiding delinquency and foreclosure," Bernanke said.

Stocks pull off lows on bargain hunting

NEW YORK (AP)—Wall Street closed mixed Tuesday, recuperating from a sharp plunge as investors snapped up bargain stocks on rumors that a bond insurer rescue plan is progressing and upbeat comments from Cisco Systems Inc.

Earlier in the session, the market sank after Merrill Lynch lowered its full-year earnings prediction for Citigroup Inc., which a Dubai fund executive said will need to raise more cash to stay in

business. Another damper on trading was Intel Corp., which lowered its forecast for first-quarter profit margins.

But in afternoon trading, the stock market showed signs of optimism. The financial sector regained some steam after CNBC reported that a plan to save the bond insurer Ambac Financial is advancing nicely.

Technology stocks rebounded too after a Dow Jones Newswires report that Cisco CEO

John Chambers said he is "even more comfortable" with the long-term growth targets the company has outlined.

Wall Street is jittery, however, and as the volatility of the past several months has proved, the market's optimism can quickly turn to pessimism from one day to the next. While some investors search for bargains when stocks sink, the overall market is plagued by persistent worries about the bad debt held by the world's banks.

Bank industry strong, regulators insist

WASHINGTON (AP)—Banking and savings and loan institution regulators insisted Tuesday that the system remains strong despite precipitous declines in earnings sparked by the mortgage crisis.

"The vast majority of institutions remain well-capitalized," Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation Chairman Sheila Bair told a Senate Banking Committee hearing on the state of the

banking industry.

Credit losses "are going to continue to tick up," and the FDIC expects some increases in its troubled bank list, she said. Banks do fail, she added, but "I think we'll still be easily within historical norms. I don't think it will be anything we can't handle."

She noted that at the end of 2007 there were 76 institutions on the FDIC's "problem list," compared to 1,430

at the end of 1991.

That message was echoed by others on the panel. Donald Kohn, vice chairman of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, reported that preliminary figures showed bank holding companies losing more than \$8 billion in the fourth quarter of last year because of writedowns and loan losses. But they also had net income for the year of \$90 billion.

STOCK Portfolio

ASIAN MARKETS

AUSTRALIA
5,471.600
Down 7.600
(-0.14%)

HONG KONG
22,888.90
Down 230.97
(-1.00%)

JAKARTA
2,614.8789
Down 19.873
(-0.75%)

TOKYO
13,025.59
Up 33.31
(+0.26%)

K. LUMPUR
1,314.02
Down 16.59
(-1.25%)

MANILA
3,092.65
Down 16.07
(-0.52%)

SINGAPORE
2,903.64
Down 16.04
(-0.55%)

SEOUL
1,675.98
Down 0.2
(-0.01%)

BANGKOK
827.28
Down 4.13
(-0.50%)

LEADING INDICATORS

DOW
12,213.80
-45.10

NASDAQ
2,260.28
+1.68

S&P
1,326.75
-4.59

MONEY MARKET

Australian Dollar	1.0801
British Pound	0.5039
Canadian Dollar	0.9942
Chinese Renmbi	7.1085
Euro	0.658
Hong Kong Dollar	7.7839
Indian Rupee	40.222
Indonesian Rupiah	9077.5
Japanese Yen	103.39
Malaysian Ringgit	3.182
New Zealand Dollar	1.2545
Philippine Peso	40.654
Singapore Dollar	1.3896
South Korean Won	947.1
Swiss Franc	1.0391
Taiwan Dollar	30.836
Thailand Baht	31.565

In U.S. dollar terms

Source: Associated Press

Nation

ACROSS THE NATION

Convicted drill instructor gets clemency

SAN DIEGO (AP) -- A former Marine drill instructor convicted of abusing 23 recruits has been granted clemency and released more than two months early. The Associated Press confirmed Tuesday that Pvt. Jerrod Glass was quietly released Feb. 23 from the brig after the commanding general at the Marine Corps Recruit Depot signed off on a defense request for clemency. Glass, 25, was convicted in November of eight counts of cruelty and maltreatment, destruction of personal property, assault and violating orders on how to properly treat recruits.

Suspected LA gang shooting wounds boy

LOS ANGELES (AP) -- Police say a 6-year-old boy was shot in the head in a suspected gang attack on a carload of people in Los Angeles. Officer Ana Aguirre says two young men walked up to a car around noon Tuesday in the Harbor Gateway section. One of the men flashed gang signs and fired shots at the vehicle, which had three adults and three children inside. The wounded boy was taken to a hospital in critical condition. Aguirre says the people in the car are not residents of the area, and were driving around looking for an address.

Puppy-throwing video raises many hackles

HONOLULU (AP) -- A Marine smiles as he holds what appears to be a puppy by the scruff of the neck. The face of the motionless animal is shown to the camera as a colleague comments on how cute it is. Then the black and white puppy is tossed off a rocky cliff. Whether the 17-second Internet video clip is authentic or a prank, it has drawn sharp condemnation, widespread outrage and a military investigation. Animal rights groups said they have been flooded with e-mails and calls about the disturbing video, which was viewed tens of thousands of times before it was taken down by YouTube.com on Tuesday "due to terms of use violation." The Marine Corps is investigating, calling the video "deplorable and contrary to the high standards we expect of every Marine."

Snow, rain pound wide areas of US

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. (AP) -- Deep snow, heavy rain and sleet from the Mississippi Valley to the East Coast snarled travel, caused scattered flooding and complicated primary-day voting Tuesday. Two people were killed in Illinois when their car slid on a sleet-covered road into the path of a truck. As much as 13 inches of snow fell at Russellville in west-central Arkansas, with up to 8 inches in Missouri and 9 around Alton, Ill., the National Weather Service said. Some 18-wheelers had trouble negotiating some Arkansas roads, and authorities urged motorists to stay home. A band of snow and rain stretched from the southern Plains to northern New England during the morning, and the Weather Service posted winter storm warnings across sections of Oklahoma, Arkansas, Missouri and Illinois, with winter weather advisories along the Great Lakes. Thunderstorms swept through the Southeast.

Obama, Clinton battle; McCain clinches

WASHINGTON (AP)—Barack Obama and Hillary Rodham Clinton split a pair of small-state primaries Tuesday night and sought bigger prizes in Ohio and Texas in a riveting race for the Democratic presidential nomination. Arizona Sen. John McCain, a political maverick and unflinching supporter of the Iraq War, clinched the Republican prize, completing a remarkable comeback.

Obama won the Vermont primary, gaining nearly 60 percent of the vote for a 12th straight victory over the former first lady. She countered quickly, winning in another small northeastern state, Rhode Island, where she was collecting about 53 percent of the vote.

But Ohio and Texas were the big trophies of the night, rich in delegates with the potential to prove decisive in the Democratic race.

The onus was on Clinton to break through after a string of setbacks left her struggling to keep her White House hopes alive.

Obama held a narrow lead in Texas with votes from nearly 20 percent of the precincts counted.

Clinton was in front in Ohio, where votes from about 40 percent of the precincts showed her with 57 percent of the vote.

In the Republican race, McCain, 71, had been viewed as the presumptive nominee for weeks. He went over the top in the Associated Press' delegate count based on his performance in Tuesday's primaries as well as a late show of support from Republican National Committee members who are delegates to the party convention in August. President George W. Bush, a fellow Republican, invited him to the White House for a show of support on Wednesday.

McCain has struggled to win the support of the Republican Party's conservative base, but his appeal to independent voters could make him a tough rival for either Obama or Clinton.



Republican presidential hopeful, Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., and his wife Cindy react as they arrive at his primary election watch party in Dallas, Tuesday, March 4, 2008.

Huckabee drops out of presidential race

IRVING, Texas (AP) -- Mike Huckabee bowed to reality Tuesday and out of the Republican presidential race. "We kept the faith," he told his end-of-the-road rally Tuesday after John McCain clinched the nomination. "I'd rather lose an election than lose the

principles that got me into politics in the first place."

The genial conservative went out as he had campaigned all along, with a quip: "It's time for us to hit the reset button."

Huckabee won the leadoff Iowa cau-

cuses, making him a sudden but short-lived sensation, and then seven other states: Alabama, Arkansas, Georgia, Tennessee, West Virginia, Louisiana and Kansas. Meantime, McCain piled up big victories on his way to winning the prize on Tuesday night.

Kucinich facing a tough battle in Ohio

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP) -- Dennis Kucinich, the liberal Ohio politician who made two failed White House campaigns, fought Tuesday in the Democratic primary to keep his seat against the toughest, best-financed challenger in his 12-year congressio-

nal career.

Although the presidential primary commanded most of the nation's attention, Kucinich's race was the best known congressional contest on ballots in Ohio and Texas.

Other races included three veterans

of the Iraq war seeking congressional nominations in Ohio and a battle for the nomination to challenge Sen. John Cornyn in Texas. Voters in one Vermont community approved a measure calling for the arrest of President Bush and Vice President Dick Cheney.

Woman gives birth to identical triplets

MANHASSET, N.Y. (AP)—When they get older, Logan, Eli and Collin Penn may blanch at the notion they wore nail polish to their first press conference. But it's the only way their parents know how to tell the boys apart right now. The identical triplets were born last Wednesday at North Shore University Hospital - an event so rare that an obstetrician estimated it might happen just once in 200 million births.

The triplets' mother, Allison Penn, was impregnated with just one embryo through in vitro fertilization, said Dr. Victor Klein, a specialist in multiple births and high risk pregnancies who delivered the boys. That embryo split in half and then one half of that split again, he said.

"This is the first one we're aware of in the literature in the country in which they only put back one embryo" and a woman gave birth to triplets, said Klein. "Most people put back two or three embryos and you just never know."

Klein said identical triplets are born at a rate between one in 60,000 and one in 200 million, depending on the research.

Allison Penn, 31, said she and her husband Tom, 46, had tried to have a baby ever since they got married about four years ago. Although she once



Allison Penn looks at her identical triplets, from left, Logan, Eli and Collin, Tuesday, March 4, 2008, at North Shore University Hospital in Manhasset, N.Y.

thought of having several children, the disappointments over four years revised her dreams downward.

"When it took us so long to get

pregnant, I just assumed we were going to have one and that would probably be it," she said. "So I thought one would be good."

Memphis cops: No leads in slayings of 6

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (AP) -- A day into one of the city's biggest murder investigations in decades - two men, two women and two boys shot and stabbed - police conceded Tuesday they had virtually nothing to go on.

Investigators said they believed the attacker or attackers were not among the dead, ruling out a murder-suicide.

But detectives faced a broad window for the killings: some time between Saturday night and Monday evening, when the six bodies and three wounded children were found in a small brick home on a dead-end street in a poor neighborhood east of downtown.

Officers went door to door looking for tips that could lead to a suspect or a motive.

"We're working with a blank sheet of paper," police spokeswoman Monique Martin said.

Most of the victims had been shot and at least one child had been stabbed, authorities said. The children ranged in age from about 1 to 12 years old, police said.

Asia

Four killed in Pakistan suicide bomb

LAHORE, Pakistan (AP)—Two suicide bombers blew themselves up at a naval college on Tuesday, killing four people and underlining the security challenge facing the winners of Pakistan's landmark elections.

The bombers rode up to the gate of the college's parking lot on a motorcycle. The passenger dismounted and destroyed the gate with a bomb, allowing his accomplice to ride inside and unleash a much more powerful blast, said Malik Iqbal, police chief in the eastern city of Lahore.

Muhammad Safdar, a 23-year-old chauffeur, said he had dropped off an officer at the

college and was sitting in the cafeteria when he heard the first blast and rushed outside.

"There was smoke and vehicles on fire ... Several people were lying on the ground injured and crying for help, but I, too, was injured as something hit me in the neck," he told reporters.

Pakistan Navy War College, which trains senior naval officials from Pakistan and other countries, is the latest target in a bombing campaign that has killed hundreds in recent months and relented only briefly during the Feb. 18 parliamentary elections.

In Washington, State Department spokesman Tom Casey

told reporters the United States condemned the attack and offered its sympathies to the victims and their families.

Terrorists in Pakistan "are willing to use any and all" techniques to carry out their objectives, he said. Continuing attacks show the importance of the U.S. working with the government to fight extremism, he said. "We want to be able to work well with the new Pakistani government once it's formed," Casey said.

Asif Ali Zardari, co-chairman of the party expected to lead the new government, called the bombing as "inhuman, barbaric and most despicable."



Pakistani rescue officials removes a dead body from the site of a suicide attack in Lahore, Pakistan on Tuesday, March 4, 2008. AP

...as bombings in Afghanistan kill 5

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—A suicide car bomber attacked a government building Tuesday in eastern Afghanistan, killing a policeman a day after a similar blast left four people - including two NATO soldiers - dead.

The car bomber tried to hit a government building in the Tani district of eastern Khost province, but Afghan guards opened fire toward the car, said Khost Gov. Arsallah Jamal.

A policeman was killed and five other people, including an Afghan soldier, were wounded in the explosion that followed, said district police chief Guldat Hamim.

The attack came a day after another bomber rammed

an explosives-laden car into the gates of another government building in the Yaqoubi district of Khost province on Monday, causing a part of the building to collapse and trapping soldiers inside, officials said.

Four people—two NATO soldiers and two Afghan civilians—were killed in that attack and 19 other people, including 15 soldiers, were wounded, officials said.

Initially, NATO officials said four soldiers were wounded in the explosion, but later Tuesday revised that figure.

"Because of the damages, it took the recovery team an extended time to assess the num-

ber of people affected by the explosion," a statement from NATO's International Security Assistance Force said.

NATO did not disclose the soldiers' nationalities. However, the majority of international forces in Khost province are American.

Militants regularly use suicide and roadside attacks in their fight against Afghan and foreign troops in the country.

Last year was the deadliest in Afghanistan since the 2001 U.S.-led invasion. More than 6,500 people—mostly militants—were killed in insurgency-related violence, according to an Associated Press count.

ASIAN BRIEFS

RP activists: Woman raped by US soldier in Japan

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Philippine activists picketed the U.S. Embassy on Tuesday, demanding justice for a Filipino woman allegedly raped by an American soldier in Japan. Chanting "U.S. imperialists, No. 1 terrorists," some 30 left-wing activists burned a cardboard U.S. flag and scuffled briefly with riot police. Last month, American and Japanese officials said a U.S. serviceman was under investigation for alleged sexual assault of a Filipino woman on the southern island of Okinawa, where a U.S. Marine also was arrested on suspicion of raping a 14-year-old Japanese girl. The Japanese girl later withdrew her complaint against the Marine and Okinawa police released him into U.S. custody last week.

China dismisses US military report

BEIJING (AP)—China on Tuesday dismissed as "Cold War" thinking a Pentagon report that says it is developing the ability to limit or prevent

the use of satellites by potential adversaries during times of crisis. "It is a serious distortion of facts and attempts to interfere in China's internal affairs and break the norms of international relations," Foreign Ministry spokesman Qin Gang told a news conference. "We urge the U.S. to drop its Cold War mentality and have a correct understanding of China and China's development, correct its wrongdoing and contribute to our mutual trust and constant cooperation," Qin said.

US military eases Okinawa restrictions

TOKYO (AP)—The U.S. military has eased restrictions on daytime travel off bases on the southern island of Okinawa that were imposed after a Marine was arrested for allegedly raping a young girl, officials said Tuesday. Charges were never pressed. Tight restrictions on all military personnel, including civilian employees, were put into place after the allegations arose as part of a two-week "period of reflection," an effort by the military to enforce discipline

core values. Restrictions remain on off-base activity at night for military personnel, but not for civilians. New restrictions on off-base drinking have been added for the troops, however, the Marines said in a statement.

Satellite navigation to help at Olympics

BEIJING (AP)—Athletes and high-ranking Olympic officials being whisked to venues this summer will get there with the help of satellite navigation devices - and some aid from the military. Yu Chunquan, director of transportation for the local organizing committee, said Tuesday that an "unprecedented 8,000 volunteers" would drive many of the vehicles that will speed through Beijing's usually clogged streets using specially designated "Olympic lanes." He said 2,000 additional "professional drivers" would chauffeur buses and other vehicles under contract to local companies. Yu said many of the 7,000 vehicles designated for official Olympic use would have satellite navigation systems, preventing drivers from getting lost.

GMA urged: Cooperate in Senate probe

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—The Philippine president must prove her commitment to fighting corruption and cooperate with a Senate investigation into a graft-tainted project or be condemned as corrupt herself, a group of former senior government officials said Tuesday.

Former consultants allege that President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo's husband and the country's elections chief—who has since quit—benefited from huge kickbacks linked to the aborted broadband contract with China's ZTE Corp. The two men have denied any wrongdoing.

"She must do these (things) or

be condemned as complicit with, and in fact, as being at the center of the lies surrounding the NBN-ZTE deal," 81 former Cabinet members and senior officials who served under Arroyo and her four predecessors said in a statement.

They said the president must demonstrate her commitment to fighting corruption and urged her to cooperate with a Senate investigation into the deal and to "stop denigrating it so that its investigation can be completed as soon as possible."

Reacting to the statement, deputy presidential spokesman Anthony Golez said the former officials "very well

know that one can't dictate to any president."

The Senate hearings, broadcast on live TV, have heightened calls for Arroyo to resign.

Tens of thousands of people, including two former presidents, gathered in Manila's financial district Friday to call for her to step down.

In a speech Tuesday, Arroyo said she would follow the constitution and "my own desire to step down at the end of my term in 2010."

"But until that day, I will strive to pursue reforms so that I will leave a stable nation to the future leader," she said.

Wen says Olympics key for development

BEIJING (AP)—Premier Wen Jiabao said Wednesday that China plans to reform its stifling Cabinet ministry system and that the Summer Olympics will be vital for the country's economic and social development.

In his policy speech at the opening of the annual session of the national legislature, Wen also repeated hardline comments

against independence moves by self-governed Taiwan.

The Olympics, which open Aug. 8, are a source of huge national pride to the Chinese, and the government has invested tens of billions to remake Beijing for them.

"All sons and daughters of the Chinese nation are looking forward to them, and they will

be of great importance in promoting China's economic and social development and increasing friendship and cooperation between Chinese people and the peoples of other countries," Wen told the 2,970 delegates.

Restructuring government agencies and ministries is vital to keeping China's breakneck growth on track and to eliminating waste and protecting the environment. The ministries often overlap and compete on policy.

Wen said the changes will "mainly center on changing the way the government functions, appropriately dividing responsibilities among departments that exercise macro-economic regulation, adjusting and improving bodies in charge of management, and improving departments responsible for public administration and public services."

He said detailed plans on the reforms will be submitted to the NPC for approval. The legislative session ends March 18.



In this photo released by China's Xinhua News Agency, the evening view of the National Stadium, nicknamed the Bird's Nest is seen in Beijing, Monday, March 4, 2008. The Stadium was on lighting test on Monday, for the Beijing Olympic Games in August. AP

World

Venezuelan troops sent to Colombian border

CUCUTA, Colombia (AP)

—Venezuela and Ecuador reinforced their borders with Colombia on Tuesday as the three nations traded increasingly bitter accusations over Colombia's cross-border strike on a leftist guerrilla base in Ecuador.

Rejecting a Colombian apology as insufficient, Ecuador sought international condemnation of the attack during an emergency meeting of the Organization of American States, convened in Washington to help defuse one of South America's most volatile crises in years. Venezuela's justice minister declared that war "has already begun."

Ecuadorean President Rafael Correa called his Colombian counterpart, Alvaro Uribe, a "bold-faced liar." Uribe demanded the International Criminal Court try Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez for genocide. President Bush accused Chavez of "provocative maneuvers."

Colombia said documents found at the base showed rebels wanted to make a radioactive dirty bomb. But the documents it shared with reporters didn't support the allegation, indicating instead that the rebels were



Venezuelan soldiers stand on guard as vehicles line up to cross the Simon Bolivar bridge at the border between Colombia and Venezuela in San Antonio, Venezuela, Monday, March 3, 2008.

trying to buy uranium to resell at a profit.

Uribe said Chavez should be prosecuted for allegedly financing the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, or FARC. Uribe cited the documents in a laptop seized in Reyes' jungle camp that he said showed Vene-

zuela recently made a \$300 million payment to the rebels.

Both Venezuela and Ecuador dismissed all the allegations as lies. Venezuelan Foreign Minister Nicolas Maduro said the idea of trying Chavez was "laughable."

At the moment, it's mostly a war of words, and other na-

tions tried Tuesday to keep it that way, although many said Colombia was wrong to send troops into Ecuador. The Saturday raid killed 24 guerrillas, including rebel spokesman Raul Reyes, who was engaged in hostage talks with Venezuela, France and other countries.

Colombia says rebels considering dirty bombs

GENEVA (AP)—Colombia's vice president on Tuesday defended his country's attack on a rebel base on Ecuadorean soil, telling a U.N. disarmament panel that the leftist guerrillas were trying to acquire radioactive material that could be used to make "dirty bombs."

Vice President Francisco Santos said evidence in two computers found after the attack indicated rebels trying to acquire radioactive material—"the primary basis for generating dirty weapons of mass destruction and terrorism."

But the evidence Colombia shared with reporters didn't support Santos' allegation, indicating instead that the rebels were trying to buy uranium to resell at a profit.

Speaking to the 65-nation Conference on Disarmament, Santos said the discovery demonstrates that the economic power of drug trafficking is enabling terrorist groups "to constitute a serious threat not just to our country but to the entire Andean and Latin American region."

Meanwhile, Ecuadorean Justice Minister Gustavo Jalkh told the U.N. Human Rights Council that Colombia violated its human rights obligations when its military staged the attack that killed a key rebel leader.

Both bodies are in the same Palais des Nations complex that houses United Nations offices in Geneva, but it was unclear if Santos and Jalkh met face-to-face.

Iran calls new UN sanctions 'worthless'

TEHRAN, Iran (AP)—Iran vowed to push ahead with uranium enrichment Tuesday, a day after the U.N. Security Council passed a third round of sanctions that Tehran called "worthless" and politically biased.

The council approved the measures in a 14-0 vote, but unity among the major powers faltered Tuesday when Russia

and China blocked an attempt by Western nations to introduce a resolution on Iran's nuclear defiance at a meeting of the U.N. nuclear watchdog agency.

The dispute reflected the often contentious relations between the West and Russia and China about how to deal with Iran's refusal to suspend enrichment and meet other Security Coun-

cil demands aimed at ensuring its nuclear program isn't trying to produce atomic weapons.

The sanctions approved Monday ordered a freeze on assets of additional Iranian officials and companies with links to the country's nuclear and missile programs and banned for the first time trade with Iran in some goods that have both civil-

ian and military uses.

"This resolution is contrary to the spirit and articles of the International Atomic Energy Agency. It has been issued based on political motivations and a biased approach. It is worthless and unacceptable," Foreign Ministry spokesman Mohammad Ali Hosseini was quoted as saying by Iran's official news agency.

Some Israeli forces enter south Gaza

KHAN YOUNIS, Gaza Strip

(AP)—About 25 Israeli armored vehicles rumbled into southern Gaza and clashed with militants after nightfall Tuesday. A 1-month-old baby was killed in the crossfire, a medical official said.

The Israeli tanks fired shells and attack helicopters fired missiles during the clashes, Palestinian witnesses said.

The baby girl was killed by a ricocheting bullet, Palestinian Health Ministry official Moaiya Hassanain said. A local Islamic Jihad leader was killed and eight militants and three civilians were wounded, none of

them seriously, he said.

Islamic Jihad in a statement pledged revenge attacks "in the depths of the Zionist enemy, God willing."

Israeli defense officials said it was a "pinpoint" operation aimed at Gaza militants. It came just a day after Israel ended a destructive and bloody ground operation in northern Gaza against Palestinian rocket squads.

The armored column entered Gaza through the Kissufim crossing, which was the main crossing point for Israeli settlers in Gaza before Israel's 2005 pullout, witnesses said.

WORLD BRIEFS

Canada govt probes Obama leak

TORONTO (AP)—Canada's conservative government said Tuesday it was investigating the leak of a memo that suggested Barack Obama's harsh words about the North American Free Trade Agreement were for political show. The memo circulated within the government and obtained by The Associated Press said Obama's senior economic adviser, Austan Goolsbee, discussed the debate over free trade in the Democratic presidential primary campaign with Canadian officials in Chicago. "The primary campaign has been necessarily domestically focused, particularly in the Midwest, and that much of the rhetoric that may be perceived to be protectionist is more reflective of political maneuvering than policy," Goolsbee was quoted as saying in the memo. Goolsbee said his comments were misinterpreted, and Obama denied offering the Canadians any such ideas.

European mission gets rocky start

PARIS (AP)—Even before its troops got lost and came under fire this week in Sudan, Europe's mission to protect some half-million uprooted people on the bor-

ders of conflict-torn Darfur had suffered an inauspicious start. European nations were slow to contribute troops to the force, with some wary of being dragged by France, the one-time colonial power in the region, into an ill-advised adventure in a dangerous, unstable part of Africa. Some African leaders were suspicious if not downright hostile to the idea of Europeans policing their backyard. Sudan, in particular, has long resisted international involvement in efforts to bring safety and peace to the people of Darfur, where fighting has killed more than 200,000 people and created 2.5 million refugees since 2003.

N. Ireland Protestant firebrand retiring

BELFAST, Northern Ireland (AP)—Ian Paisley, the fiery Protestant preacher who reversed a lifetime of stubbornness to embrace an unlikely peace, announced his retirement Tuesday as leader of Northern Ireland's power-sharing government with Roman Catholics. Paisley said he would quit in May as first minister of the 10-month-old coalition and as leader of the Democratic Unionists, the party he founded 37 years ago on a platform of thwarting compromise with the Catholic minority in

this British territory. Analysts universally called his decision the long-expected end of an era. Speculation had swirled for months that Paisley, 81 and physically faltering, would end his run as Northern Ireland's most enduring politician through three decades of war and a decade of slow-blooming peace.

Police oust activists in Brazil

SAO PAULO, Brazil (AP)—Police used rubber bullets and tear gas Tuesday to remove 900 activists from a tree farm they had invaded to highlight allegations its Swedish-Finnish operators violated a law forbidding foreign companies from owning certain lands, media reported. Via Campesina, the farm workers' rights group that staged the invasion, said in a statement that dozens of its members were injured. But police commander Paulo Mendes, who coordinated the ouster of the protesters, said he was unaware of any injuries suffered by demonstrators, according to UOL, the Web site of the Folha de S. Paulo newspaper. Mendes confirmed that about 50 officers took part in the operation, some of them on horseback and others using police dogs to break up the occupation of the farm.



A Palestinian boy walks inside a crater next to a damaged house, after Israeli troops pulled out from the east of Jebaliya in the northern Gaza Strip, Tuesday, March 4, 2008.

In Loving Memory of

Lourdes Cabrera Deleon Guerrero

SEPTEMBER 27, 1949 - MARCH 1, 2008

was called to join her creator on Saturday,
March 1, 2008 at the age of 58

Her memories will forever live in the hearts of her:

Husband – **Edward Masga Deleon Guerrero**

Her Children and Grandchildren:

Yvonne DLG. and Dennis M. Reyes
Jake, Alexis, Kyana (Joseph, JDen)

Edward C. and Maureen B. Deleon Guerrero
Jerry, Joshua, Keesha, Keith

† **Joseph** C. Deleon Guerrero
Jashlie, Jacob, Ashlynn, Donovan Jay, Ava Lourette

Kulani DLG. and Ben Sablan
Peter, Edward, Brandon, Nathan, Brittany, Clayton

Reared Son and Daughter:

Peter Ryan Deleon Guerrero
Sylvia Alexis Deleon Guerrero

She will also be missed by her brothers, sisters and in-laws:

Ana C. Celis and Children
Larry & Lillian C. Leon Guerrero and Family
Charlie & Dolores C. Leon Guerrero and Family
Nicolasa M. Cabrera and Children
Diego & Donna Cabrera and Family
Margarita S. Cabrera and Family
Aida D. Cabrera and Children
Ramon & Rosalina T. Cabrera and Family

Jose Pangelinan and Children
Jose & Isabel C. Delon Guerrero and Family
Herman & Asunta C. Deleon Guerrero and Family
John & Lisa Deleon Guerrero and Family
Thomas & Oliva C. Deleon Guerrero and Family
Francisco & Joanne T. Deleon Guerrero and family
Vicente & Nadine S. Deleon Guerrero and Family
David Deleon Guerrero and Frances Rebuénog and Family
Santiago & Tara Deleon Guerrero and Family
Douglas & Regina DLG. Cushnie and Family
Ben & Joaquina DLG. Salas and Family
Magdalena Deleon Guerrero & Edward Aguon and Family
John & MaryAnn DLG. Sablan and Family
Lucia M. Deleon Guerrero and Children
Ignacio M. & Vivian S. Deleon Guerrero and Family



In her new life, she now joins her:

Parents: † Antonio Sablan Cabrera
† Sylvia Manibusan Cabrera

Parents-In-Law: † Ignacio Sablan Deleon Guerrero
† Teofilia Masga Deleon Guerrero

Brothers, Sisters and In-Laws:

† Antonia Manibusan Cabrera
† Vicente Manibusan Cabrera
† Jose Manibusan Cabrera
† Daniel Sablan Celis
† Maria Sakisat Pangelinan

Funeral Services will be held on Saturday, March 8, 2008.

Her remains will be taken from Nuestra Señora dela Paz Memorial Chapel at 7:30 a.m. to OL Mt. Carmel Cathedral. Responso Service will be at 8:00 a.m. followed by Holy Rosary at 8:30 a.m. Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 11:00 a.m. Interment Services will take place at Santuario Pax Memorial Gardens in Kagman.



† **Joseph Cabrera
Deleon Guerrero**

MAY 30, 1975 - MARCH 31, 2007

A joined Daily Mass of Intentions is being celebrated at San Vicente Church at 6:00 p.m. followed by Holy Rosary at 7:00 p.m. for the reposed souls of † Lourdes Cabrera Deleon Guerrero and her son † Joseph Cabrera Deleon Guerrero in commemoration of his **First Death Anniversary.**

Thank you – Si Yu'us Ma'ase
Please Join Us In Prayers.

**Edward M. Deleon Guerrero
Children and Family**

Environment

DFW-Rota is trained in MPA enforcement



DFW Rota received Marine Protected Area Law Enforcement Training from Guam Division of Aquatic and Wildlife Resources on Feb. 25 to Feb 29. Funded by Pacific Islands Marine Protected Area Community, the formal training involved learning basic enforcement skills, a capacity assessment for the division, and the development of Standard Operating Procedures, including field testing. The training was attended by all six Rota DFW Staff, two Saipan Marine Enforcement Officers, and two Department of Public Safety representatives. The training was supported by Resident Director of DLNR-Rota, Herman Apatang, Rota Mayor Joseph S. Inos, Rota's NOAA's Coral Reef Management Fellow, Lihla Noori, and NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service, Guam Coral Reef Ecologist, Valerie Brown.

This training is the direct result of several Rota fisherman meetings that called for improved enforcement for fish and wildlife; we have coordinated a Division of Fish and Wildlife-Rota Strategic Action Plan. The DFW-Rota Strategic Action Plan is an institutional capacity building mechanism aimed at creating a pathway to action for this administration and the ones that follow. DFW-Rota intends to use the plan to direct their operations. The draft was circulated to the Pacific Islands Marine Protected Area Community and The Nature Conservancy for comments. After editing, it will be distributed to the Mayor of Rota, DFW-Saipan, and CNMI natural resource management agencies for additional comments, before it is officially available for the public.

Formed at the November 2007 PIMPAC meeting, the Rota Community Fisherman group will be the main advisory body for DFW-Rota regarding fisheries and marine management issues. This group has expressed the need for improved enforcement island wide and increased outreach to fisherman regarding improvements to fisheries management. Suggestions for educational topics include life characteristic of key fish species, the repercussion of harvesting undersize fish, the economic importance of iconic fish like the Napoleon Wrasse, how to eliminate the use of derris, and discussion about the possibility of locally managing our near shore marine environment with RCF group direct input into rules and regulations.

In efforts to improve agency relationships, promote collaboration with the community, and in spirit of reactivating the MOU for joint law enforcement, the Rota Community Fisherman Group and DPS Boating Safety was invited to join the enforcement officers on Thursday afternoon. At this time the community stakeholders were briefed of training topics, presented with an outline of Rota's draft SOP and Strategic Plan, and asked for criticisms of the documents. This was an opportunity for DFW Rota to build partnership with the community they serve, especially businesses, government agencies, and fisherman.

The community section resulted in a riveting discussion concerning the implementation of a citation program for DFW-Rota Conservation Officers. Saipan DFW Officers stated the citation program is under legal review by the Attorney General's Office. Community meeting attendees suggested DFW-Rota coordinate an upper level meeting between legal counsel, Deputy Director of DPS Francisco Taisacan, Resident DLNR Director Herman Apatang and the Secretary of DLNR, to discuss the most appropriate process for CNMI standard citation processing to ensure the program's efficiency and transparency by all parties.

Moreover, a dive shop owner was concerned about the Senhonom cave and Harnom point dive sites. He felt that over the years he has observed a decline in numbers and size of fish in those dive sites, including witnessing someone using hookah spearfishing some time ago.

On behalf of the Resident Director of DLNR, in response to the dive shop's concern, the attendees were informed of an effort to build support for the coordination of a Marine Management Area in Rota. Many fisherman and community members are already in support of the idea to focus Rota's marine management efforts on one enforceable area that is critical to tourism, Rota's economy, provides varied and extensive fish habitat, allows for multiple access points, and varied methods of fishing year round. The proposed marine management site is West Harbor, around Wedding Cake to Puna Point. Except for the "No Take" Sasanhaya Bay Fish Reserve (and potentially other key dive sites like Harnom Point & Senhonom Cave with consensus from RCF) This area will allow harvesting. For example, Guam's Marine Pre-

serves Programs allow trolling, seasonal fishing, bottom fishing, and hook and line from shore in some of their protected areas. With active enforcement commencing in 2001, by 2003, some of Guam's marine preserves showed 100% increase in numbers of fish stocks. The unique aspect of Rota's proposed marine managed area is that Rota Community Fisherman Group (RCF) would be the core group of decision makers involved in choosing which rules would govern the marine managed area. This approach is known as Community-Based Fisheries Management. There have been several meetings and discussions on Rota that are helping to build support and understanding for this progressive and grassroots approach to natural resource management. The Rota Community Fisherman Group will be discussing this idea at their next meeting in April. During the same meeting, we will have a technical expert on hand to provide scientific information about the life biology of key fish species like reproductive sizes, spawning seasons, and options for best managing these species. With this information, we hope to provide Rota fisherman with fisheries management options, ultimately allowing them to make better decisions as to how they can best promote Rota fish stock's stability and enhancement.

We wish to extend a most sincere appreciation to law enforcement officers Sgt. Mark Aguon and Lt. Mike Reyes from Guam Division of Aquatic and Wildlife Resources Law Enforcement Section for their expertise, leadership and enthusiasm in training the Division of Fish and Wildlife Enforcement Officers, the Pacific Islands Marine Protected Area Community Network for supporting this peer learning exchange, the Office of the Mayor of Rota, and Northern Marianas College-Rota Campus for sharing their space and resources for this important community development event.

For more information on how you can partner with DFW-Rota to improve fish and wildlife enforcement, more details about Rota's Proposed Marine Management Area, or to become a member of the Rota Community Fisherman's Group, please contact Rota Coral Management Specialist, Lihla Noori @ 532-3102 lihla.noori@gmail.com, or Resident Director of DLNR-Rota Herman Apatang @ 532-9494 rotadlnr@pticom.com.

Life & Style

In this undated image released by FOX, "American Idol" contestant David Hernandez, 24, of Glendale, Ariz., is shown.



'Idol' nearly mum on contestant's past

LOS ANGELES (AP) -- David Hernandez's stripper past didn't come back to haunt him on Tuesday night's "American Idol." Hernandez's three-year stint as a male stripper wasn't even mentioned during the live telecast, which featured the 24-year-old from Glendale, Ariz., performing a rendition of Celine Dion's "It's All Coming Back to Me Now." However, acerbic judge Simon Cowell did mutter something about stripping, off camera, immediately after the song ended.

Randy Jackson called Hernandez's singing "pitchy" but said he had a "big ol' voice." Paula Abdul raved that Hernandez had some of the "best vocals." And Simon Cowell said it wasn't as good as last week, but Hernandez had secured himself a place in the finals.

On Thursday, 16 semifinalists will be narrowed down to

the final 12 contestants.

Other than Cowell, no one alluded to Monday's news that Hernandez worked for three years in Phoenix at Dick's Cabaret. There, he would appear fully nude and perform lap dances for the club's "mostly male" clientele, club manager Gordy Bryan told The Associated Press on Monday.

It apparently wasn't Hernandez's "most embarrassing moment" either. (Contestants had to 'fess up about theirs during the show.) In a taped segment before his performance, Hernandez said his red-faced moment happened when he discovered he had "a pea-sized booger" in his nose following a photo shoot.

Fox and the producers have declined to comment about Hernandez.

In 2003, semifinalist Frenchie Davis was dismissed

from "Idol" because of her appearance on an adult Web site, but Antonella Barba remained in the competition last year after racy photos of her surfaced on the Internet.

Third-place finisher Nikki McKibbin from the first "Idol" season briefly worked as stripper before the show, according to Joe Cannizzaro, president of McKibbin's record label, Chenoa Music. Like Hernandez, McKibbin wasn't dismissed from the show when her history as a stripper was publicly revealed - nor was it disclosed on the show.

Dick's Cabaret manager Bryan told the AP he was aware that Hernandez was a vocalist, but that Hernandez never sang at the club. Bryan said he now believes Hernandez stopped working at the strip club on Sept. 30, 2007, because of his participation in "Idol."

Dungeons & Dragons co-creator dies at 69

MILWAUKEE (AP) -- Gary Gygax, who co-created the fantasy game Dungeons & Dragons and is widely seen as the father of the role-playing games, died Tuesday morning at his home in Lake Geneva. He was 69. He had been suffering from health problems for several years, including an abdominal aneurysm, said his wife, Gail Gygax.

Gygax and Dave Arneson developed Dungeons & Dragons in 1974 using medieval characters and mythical creatures. The game known for its oddly shaped dice became a hit, particularly among teenage boys, and eventually was turned into video games, books and movies.

Gygax always enjoyed hearing from the game's legion of devoted fans, many of whom

would stop by the family's home in Lake Geneva, about 55 miles southwest of Milwaukee, his wife said. Despite his declining health, he hosted weekly games of Dungeons & Dragons as recently as January, she said.



Gygax

"It really meant a lot to him to hear from people from over the years about how he helped them become a doctor, a lawyer, a policeman, what he gave them," Gail Gygax said. "He really enjoyed that."

Dungeons & Dragons players create fictional characters and carry out their adventures with the help of complicated rules. The quintessential geek pastime, it spawned a wealth of copycat games and later inspired a whole genre of computer games that's still growing in

popularity.

Born Ernest Gary Gygax, he grew up in Chicago and moved to Lake Geneva at the age of 8. Gygax's father, a Swiss immigrant who played violin in the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, read fantasy books to his only son and hooked him on the genre, Gail Gygax said.

Gygax dropped out of high school but took anthropology classes at the University of Chicago for a while, she said. He was working as an insurance underwriter in the 1960s, when he began playing war-themed board games.

But Gygax wanted to create a game that involved more fantasy. To free up time to work on that, he left the insurance business and became a shoe repairman, she said.

Gygax also was a prolific writer and wrote dozens of fantasy books, including the Greyhawk series of adventure novels.

Kenny Chesney leads ACM nominees with 11

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) —Kenny Chesney received a leading 11 Academy of Country Music nominations Tuesday, including entertainer of the year and top male vocalist.

Rodney Atkins followed with six nominations, including top male vocalist. Brad Paisley, Big & Rich and Sugarland all got four apiece.

Chesney also is up for song and video of the year for "Don't Blink" and vocal event for "Find Out Who Your Friends Are" with Tracy Lawrence and Tim McGraw.

Chesney received double nominations for artist and producer for "Shift Work" with George Strait, as well as for "Don't Blink" for single of the year and "Just Who I Am: Poets & Pirates" for album of the year.

If Chesney gets entertainer of the year, the most coveted trophy, it would be his fourth straight win,

tying him with Garth Brooks.

This year, for the first time, fans will choose the winner of the entertainer category, with voting to begin May 5.

The show will be held in Las Vegas on May 18 and carried live on CBS at 8 p.m. EDT.

Carrie Underwood and Paisley announced the nominations at the Country Music Hall of Fame.

Atkins' nominations include song of the year and video of the year for "Watching You" and album of the year for "If You're Going through Hell," which he also co-produced.

The singer, who has had four straight No. 1 singles, won best new male vocalist at last year's ACMs.

Paisley is nominated for male vocalist, album of the year for "5th Gear," video of the year for "Online," and entertainer of the year.

"This is one of the days where you're glad you

got up early," said Paisley, who read the list with Underwood on CBS' "The Early Show."

He added that his confidence as an entertainer has grown in recent years as he's headlined tours and bolstered his stage shows.

"I feel a little more comfortable and not as guilty," Paisley said of the entertainer nomination. "That doesn't mean that I feel that I deserve it, it just means I feel like I've earned a place."

Miranda Lambert and Taylor Swift received three nominations apiece including album of the year, Lambert for "Crazy Ex-Girlfriend" and Swift for "Taylor Swift."

"I poured my heart into this album, and the great response makes it that much better," Lambert said.

Underwood said the ACM awards hold special meaning for her because they were the "first major awards that I started winning."

"And they're in Vegas," she added with a laugh, "so they always stand out as being a good time and just getting together and celebrating country music."

Kenny Chesney performs in this May 15, 2007, file photo in Las Vegas. AP



Hollywood private eye's trial to begin

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Anthony Pellicano spent decades building his reputation in Hollywood as a crafty, bare-knuckled private eye who worked for a long roster of A-list clients, including Elizabeth Taylor and Michael Jackson.

So it figured that his indictment two years ago in a federal wiretapping case would make entertainment power players nervous about who else might be charged and what secrets might be exposed.

The cliffhanger dropped with a thud, however, when Pellicano refused to flip on his rich and famous clients.

But there will be at least one plot twist during the trial of Pellicano and four co-defendants: The private eye will act as his own attorney, meaning he'll likely have the goods as he questions former clients who testify against him.

"I'm not going to willfully hurt anyone," he told The Associated Press during a recent telephone interview from federal prison. "But I might ask questions ... that might make people uncomfortable."

Jury selection is set to begin Wednesday.

Federal prosecutors laid out much of their trial strategy in court documents filed Friday.

They portrayed Pellicano, 63, as an ambitious investigator-to-the-stars who ran a criminal enterprise that wiretapped phones and bribed police and telephone workers to get the "gold standard" of confidential information.

He is accused of charging at least \$25,000 for dirt that could be used to gain an edge in divorce and business disputes. Some of the information even involved rape and murder cases, according to the court documents.

Prosecutors estimate that Pellicano, retired Los Angeles police Sgt. Mark Ameson and former telephone company employee Rayford Earl Turner collected nearly \$2 million from what they say was a racketeering scheme.

For the most part, prosecutors could not determine that Pellicano's clients were aware of the tactics.

Prosecutors have said those targeted included Sylvester Stallone and comedians Garry



Sylvester Stallone said Wednesday, Feb. 20, 2008 he wouldn't mind squaring off against private investigator Anthony Pellicano accused of tapping his phone. AP

Shandling and Kevin Nealon.

It was unclear whether any of them would testify, since prosecutors won't file a list of possible witnesses until the trial begins. Stallone told the AP last month that he would be willing to testify, even though he had not yet been subpoenaed.

Some legal experts believe a parade of celebrity witnesses might distract jurors.

"Prosecutors won't call these people unless it's absolutely necessary," said criminal defense attorney and former federal prosecutor Mark Werksman. "The more plain and vanilla the evidence is, it does the job more effectively."

A prosecution exhibit list filed late Tuesday showed they planned to introduce more than 70 audio recordings that were seized during FBI raids of Pellicano's office several years ago.

Court documents indicate prosecutors will focus their case on how Pellicano's clandestine business operated, rather than presenting an expose on the celebrities who hired him.

"It doesn't appear to have all the sexy bells and whistles," said Laurie Levenson, a former federal prosecutor and professor at Loyola Law School. "It's like 'L.A. Confidential,' the B-movie."

Pellicano and his co-defendants, including Kevin Kachiki-an and Abner Nicherie, have pleaded not guilty. In all, 14 people have been charged, and seven already pleaded guilty to a variety of charges including

perjury and conspiracy.

The court documents detailed a dozen cases in which Pellicano is suspected of illegally obtaining information.

One case involves a 2000 dispute between screenwriter Vincent "Bo" Zenga and then-producer Brad Grey, now chairman and chief executive officer of Paramount Pictures.

Prosecutors believe Grey's attorneys paid Pellicano \$25,000 to see whether Zenga had a criminal history and for other details about him, his family and associates. Grey declined to comment through a Paramount spokesman.

Another case involved a deal gone bad between hedge fund manager Adam Sender and Aaron Russo, best known for producing such films as "Trading Places" and "The Rose."

Prosecutors said Sender paid Pellicano \$500,000 to work on his lawsuit against Russo in 2001.

Sender intends to testify at the trial that Pellicano later played recordings for him of wiretapped calls involving Russo and his associates, the court documents state. Russo has since died.

Despite having a treasure trove of Hollywood secrets, Pellicano said he won't reveal them to save his own skin.

"There are a lot of celebrities' secrets I still hold and I haven't broken a vow, even to the people I don't like," he said. "If I was going to say something, I would have said something a long time ago."

HOLLYWOOD THEATERS

Don't just go to the movies. GO HOLLYWOOD!

Located near Price Costco in San Jose Saipan MP • 234-9000



\$4.75 Bargain Matinees-All Shows Before 6PM
\$4.00 All Day Admission For Seniors & Kids
\$5.00 Student Admission with Valid I.D.
\$5.00 Military with valid ID

THRIFTY TUESDAYS \$4.75 ADMISSION ALL DAY TUESDAYS EXCLUDING HOLIDAYS FOR FILMS WITH A (T)

RESERVE TICKETS ONLINE AT WWW.GOHOLLYWOOD.COM



For Friday, February 29 through Thursday, March 6 only!

★★★ NOW SHOWING ★★★

	Semi-Pro	Synopsis		
	Friday	4:25	7:30	9:35
	Saturday	1:25	4:25	7:30
	Sunday	1:25	4:25	7:30
	Mon thru Thurs	4:25	7:30	
Will Ferrell, Woody Harrelson				
Comedy, Sports • Rated R				

	Bahay Kubo	Synopsis		
	Friday	4:20	7:10	9:50
	Saturday	1:15	4:20	7:10
	Sunday	1:15	4:20	7:10
	Mon thru Thurs	4:20	7:10	
Maricel Soriano, Eric Quizon				
Comedy, Drama • Rated NR				

	Vantage Point	Synopsis		
	Friday	4:15	7:00	9:45
	Saturday	1:10	4:15	7:00
	Sunday	1:10	4:15	7:00
	Mon thru Thurs	4:15	7:00	
Dennis Quaid, Forest Whitaker				
Drama, Thriller • Rated PG13				

	The Spiderwick Chronicles	Synopsis		
	Friday	4:00	7:20	9:30
	Saturday	1:00	4:00	7:20
	Sunday	1:00	4:00	7:20
	Mon thru Thurs	4:00	7:20	
Seth Rogen, Mary-Louise Parker				
Fantasy, Children • Rated PG13				

	Fool's Gold	Synopsis		
	Friday	4:10	7:15	10:00
	Saturday	1:20	4:10	7:15
	Sunday	1:20	4:10	7:15
	Mon thru Thurs	4:10	7:15	
Matthew McConaughey, Kate Hudson				
Action, Adventure • Rated PG13				

● NO PASSES ■ NO PASSES OR SUPERSAVERS
 GIFT CERTIFICATES AVAILABLE • R-RATED FILMS REQUIRE PHOTO I.D.

[www.gohollywood.com](http://WWW.GOHOLLYWOOD.COM)

Millions awarded in Jackson taping suit

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The owner of an air charter service was ordered to pay attorney Mark Geragos and an associate several million dollars for ordering the secret videotaping of Michael Jackson and the lawyers as they flew with the pop star to his surrender on molestation charges in 2003.

According to court papers obtained Monday, Superior Court Judge Soussan G. Bruguera ordered XtraJet owner Jeffrey Borer and his company to pay Geragos at least \$10 million and possibly up to \$18 million in compensatory and punitive damages. Geragos' colleague Pat Harris was awarded between \$1.25 million and \$2.25 million in damages.

'Oprah's Big Give' gets big numbers

NEW YORK (AP)—Books, TV movies, a presidential candidate and now a philanthropic reality show. Maybe everything Oprah Winfrey touches really does turn to gold.

Sunday's premiere of "Oprah's Big Give" on ABC was seen by 15.7 million people, the largest audience in prime-time last week for any program not named "American Idol," according to Nielsen Media Research.

ABC also did well with Monday's prime-time remake of "A Raisin in the Sun," which finished in the top 10 with 12.7 million viewers.

Meanwhile, NBC found that few people cared about its much-ballyhooed transfer of a series, "Quarterlife," from the Internet to broadcast. Only 3.1 million people watched, earning it a quick hook and shift to the Bravo cable network. Among the top four broadcasters, only a Saturday night rerun of an "All-Star Tribute to Jimmy Kimmel" had a smaller audience.

In a sign of the time for television networks, and a residue of the writers strike, none of the seven most-watched programs last week were scripted. "Lost" was the only traditional comedy or drama to hit the top 10.

Fox easily won the week, averaging 13.7 million viewers (8.0 rating, 13 share). CBS had 8.1 million (5.2, 9), ABC had 7.9 million (5.1, 8), NBC had 7.2 million (4.7, 8), the CW had 2.2 million (1.4, 2), My Network TV had 1.2 million (0.8, 1) and ION Television had 480,000 (0.3, 1).



The amount of damages is dependent on whether both the company and Borer are separately responsible for punitive damages, or just Borer. Geragos' legal team claims the former, while Borer's claims the latter.

A court spokeswoman was not immediately able to clarify the discrepancy.

"Defendant Borer was the mastermind behind a scheme to desecrate and exploit sacred attorney-client communications for personal profit," Bruguera wrote in the 21-page judgment filed Friday.

Geragos' and Harris' attorney Brian J. Kabateck said he was pleased with the decision.

"This is an important day for lawyers who generally repre-

sent celebrities and high profile people," he said.

Borer's lawyer, Lloyd Kirschbaum, said his client will appeal. He contended the attorney-client relationship could not have been breached because the video recording did not have sound.

"There was not any sound," he said. "You can't intercept a communication without sound."

Borer and co-defendant Arvel Jett Reeves pleaded guilty last year to felony counts of conspiracy. They acknowledged they installed two digital video recorders in a Gulfstream jet that flew Jackson from Las Vegas to Santa Barbara. XtraJet, which was based in Santa Monica, California, has since gone bankrupt, according to Kirschbaum.

Reeves was sentenced to eight months in prison.

Borer was sentenced to six months home detention rather than prison because he said he was the caregiver for his wife, who had chronic health problems. He spent part of that confinement at the Ritz-Carlton hotel in Marina del Rey, California, saying his house had a mold problem and his wife was allergic.

The damages resulted from an invasion-of-privacy lawsuit filed by Geragos and Harris. Jackson, who was initially a plaintiff in the civil lawsuit, later dropped out of the case.

The pop singer was acquitted of the molestation charges in 2005.



Democratic presidential hopeful Barack Obama greets Kasey Jeffries, 17, an agriculture mechanic participant from Latexo, at the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo as Obama made some last-minute campaign stops Tuesday, March 4, 2008, in Houston.

A harder look at Obama, post-'SNL'?

NEW YORK (AP)—Life imitating art or just a coincidence? A study of campaign coverage found the media took a sharper look at Barack Obama the week after "Saturday Night Live" spoofed journalists enthralled by his candidacy.

The NBC comedy show on Feb. 23 opened with a mock debate where journalists were rough on Hillary Clinton while being starry-eyed about Obama. It matched complaints the Clinton campaign had made—and she even referenced the comedy skit during a real debate last week.

During the week, Obama was the dominant person in 69 percent of presidential campaign stories, according to a study by Project for Excellence in

Journalism. That's the biggest percentage one candidate had received in any week this year.

Many of the stories took a tough look at Obama, such as a Feb. 25 ABC "World News" study on his Illinois legislative record and a "CBS Evening News" report on his career three nights later.

It's hard to say whether "SNL" acted as a de-facto assignment editor, since some of the stories were probably being prepared before the NBC show aired, but it did seem to crystallize a thought that had been percolating, said Mark Jurkowitz, the project's associate director.

"There were a lot of factors at play," Jurkowitz said. "But there's no question the skit, if nothing else, was perfectly timed."

With no primaries last week, news outlets had the time to look at other stories, as well as the time to look at their own performance. The Washington Post, New York Times and ABC's "Good Morning America" all ran stories addressing whether the media has been fairly covering the Obama-Clinton contest.

"Saturday Night Live" this past weekend opened its show with another fake debate where journalists played easy for Obama. This time, the skit ended with an appearance by Clinton herself.

The project studies 48 different media outlets, including newspapers, Web sites and television networks, as part of its examination of campaign coverage.

Paris Hilton on 'My Name is Earl'

NEW YORK (AP)—NBC is pumping up the return of "My Name is Earl" with a guest shot by Paris Hilton. Hilton appears

as herself in a dream sequence. Earl has been knocked unconscious and various things from his life and imagination are bleeding into his fevered mind.

Her appearance will come in the one-hour episode on April 3 that is the first new material following the writers strike settlement, NBC said.

"When we wrote the role of

Paris Hilton in the script, we weren't exactly sure who to go with for the role," said Greg Garcia, the show's executive producer. "But after an exhausting search we finally settled on a relatively unknown actress by the name of Paris Hilton."

Hilton has just finished work on the movie "Repo: The Genetic Opera."

Teen boy's fig leaf silences neighbor's objection to nudity

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



DEAR ABBY: I felt vindicated after reading your response to "Clothes-Minded in Wisconsin" (Dec. 31), who complained that her neighbors' 16-year-old son walks around his house nude. You advised her to put curtains on her window and call before dropping over for a visit.

My neighbor complained that when my 15-year-old son (now 17) changed clothes in his room, she could see through her kitchen window into his bedroom. She told me to tell him not to walk naked in front of his window. I wanted to tell her she should look away if she was offended, but everyone I asked seemed to side with her.

My son's solution? He drew a fig leaf and taped it to his window so her view of his "offensive nudity" would be blocked. I thought it was very creative—and my neighbor never mentioned it again.

—STILL A GOOD NEIGHBOR

DEAR NEIGHBOR: Thanks for sharing your son's "fruitful" solution. In my reply to "Clothes-Minded," I stated that standards about nudity vary from family to family. And the responses I have received have reflected that. Read on:

DEAR ABBY: Americans tend to view nudity as an invitation to sex. It need not be. I lived in Germany for five years. The apartment complex I lived in had a large outdoor pool for use in the summer. People of all ages and backgrounds used it regularly. Few, if any, ever wore a swimsuit. Nobody seemed to care, and there was never any evidence of problem behavior.

I'm not advocating public nudity. However, in certain settings, it is what it is—natural.

—FRANK IN NAPLES, FLA.

DEAR ABBY: My wife and I are practicing naturists, and I agree with your response to "Clothes-Minded." You advised her to keep the curtains closed to avoid seeing the boy. Naturists know that we live in a "textile" world, and we respect the rights of those who do not wish to view our nudity and restrict our activity to clothing-optional beaches and resorts. I would advise the woman who wrote you to make her objection known—anonously, if speaking up would make her uncomfortable. It is the family's responsibility not to cause offense.

—AU NATUREL IN LOMBARD, ILL.

DEAR ABBY: What made my jaw drop was the neighbor's ability to describe exactly what time of day the young man appears in his kitchen every morning to eat breakfast (naked), and even what programs he watches on TV! Granted, this guy should put on a robe, but, Abby—that woman needs to get a life.

—CANDY IN CALIFORNIA

DEAR ABBY: As a parent, it bothered me that you didn't contemplate the "other side of the fence." That neighbor should be considered a "peeping mom"! If she knows the young man's routine as well as she seems to, she's been peeping for a while.

Just because they have been neighbors for years and watched their children grow, does not mean she's not guilty of watching a little too closely. My advice to her: Keep your eyes to yourself.

—KIM IN HELENA, ALA.

DEAR ABBY: The circumstances differ, but that letter brought to mind the old story about the woman who called the police because she could see her neighbors in the next apartment building making love. The policeman looked through her window and said, "I can't see a thing." Her reply: "You can if you stand on the bed!"

—MARTIN IN PORT CHARLOTTE, FLA.

...

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

...

For an excellent guide to becoming a better conversationalist and a more attractive person, order "How to Be Popular." Send a business-size, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$6 (U.S. funds only) to: Dear Abby Popularity Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes



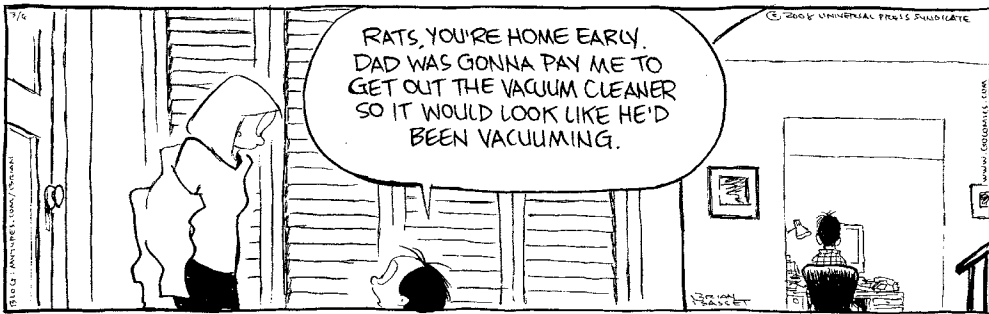
By Bill Waterson

Garfield®



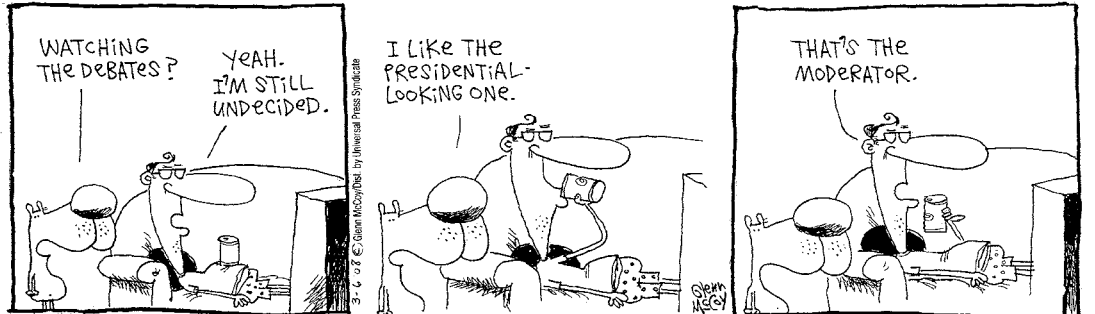
By Jim Davis

Adam@home



By Bryan Basset

The Duplex



By Glenn McCoy

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Close more
5 Suc- than a
cumbs hunch
9 Lid for a
lad
12 Surface
measure
13 Tactic
14 Call —
day
15 "Sweeney
Todd"
17 Mid-May
honoree
18 Turn to
bone
19 Doughnut
topping
21 Infinitive
part
22 Sajak's
prop
24 On the —
(un-
friendly)
27 Chart
format
28 Heidi's
venue
31 Omega
predecessor
32 "— the
ramparts
..."
33 Prior to
34 Big rig
36 Leary's
hallucino-
gen

DOWN

1 Peace-
keeping
2 Eye part
3 Lapi-
dary's
supply
4 Customs
5 Agile
6 Ht.
7 Sticky
stuff
8 Irish
dramatist
9 "The
Santa
Clause"
10 The
gamut
11 Jerry
Herman
title
role
16 E.T.'s
carrier
20 Meadow
22 Actress
Dianne
23 Flock
24 Chances,
for short
25 Work with
26 Dr. Frank-
N-Furter
portayer
27 Staff
29 Expert
30 Wield a
needle
35 Charged
bit
37 Chess
piece
39 Corre-
spond
40 Curved
path
41 Adver-
saries
42 Eman-
ation
43 Dark
cloud,
maybe
44 One of
HOMES
45 Ayes'
undoers
46 Noah's
passen-
gers
49 George's
brother
50 Feline
sound

Solution time: 25 mins.

E	G	G	S	S	A	L	A	R
A	L	E	E	P	A	W	N	A
R	U	M	I	N	A	T	E	O
L	E	S	S	O	N	L	Y	R
L	E	S	S	O	N	L	Y	R
O	L	D	N	E	W	S	K	A
F	O	O	D	X	I	V	S	T
F	O	O	D	X	I	V	S	T
I	B	I	S	L	I	D		
C	A	N	O	P	Y	U	K	A
E	L	A	N		N	O	M	I
N	O	T	E		C	U	E	
T	E	E	D		H	I	S	

Yesterday's answer 3-6

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Eli Marienthal, 22; Shaquille O'Neal, 36; Tom Arnold, 49; Rob Reiner, 61

Happy Birthday: Clearing the clutter in your life will eventually make things easier, however, getting to that point will be difficult. Let go of past problems. You can't move forward until you come to terms with where you have been and what you have done. Think outside the box and you will come up with solutions. Your numbers are 4, 19, 21, 32, 40, 44

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Get a grip on your emotions and don't give in to petty demands. Be strong and truthful. An argument will be a waste of time so don't take time trying to persuade, convince or lure those who just aren't interested. ***

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Take part in unique or untraditional events and you will discover new ways to conduct your personal life and expand your interests. A serious look at an ongoing situation will help to rectify the problem. ****

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Check out job postings. You will meet new people who can open your eyes to new ways of doing things. Your inquisitive mind will lead you to revise your goals and reduce your boredom. An added responsibility will help you make a personal decision. **

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Everything will depend on what you are willing to do and how much you are willing to compromise. Prove to everyone that you can

handle whatever comes your way. Don't fear failure or change. *****

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Fast talk coupled with charm and a little stretching of the truth and you will find yourself well on your way to getting what you want. A change in your income is heading your way. Make sure you know what you are doing before you accept an opportunity. ***

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Take a different approach to the way you do things and you will give your work a little extra pizzazz. Your ingenuity, imagination and common sense will make you appear superior and the obvious choice to win the bid, contract or someone's favor. ***

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Socializing and networking will bring the highest professional and personal rewards. Don't overspend on household items and avoid arguments. No one is likely to back down and the end result will be ill feelings and frazzled nerves. ***

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): If something is your responsibility, tend to it. Not only will you be disappointed if you let someone else do your job but you will be left with double the trouble and the work. Be responsible instead of passive. *****

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Travel, adventure and lively companionship will entice you. Change is good but be sure to do things according to the rules and regulations. Now is not the time to take chances or to meddle in the decisions of authority figures. ****

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

COPYRIGHT 2007
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Keep your money and your personal life separate or you will lose out to someone more calculating. You have to be pragmatic if you want to get things accomplished in record time and with stellar results. ***

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): You will have a lot on your mind. Don't exaggerate in order to make an impression or get your way. Eventually the truth will come out, leaving you looking bad. Be honest. ***

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): You won't have a clear and honest assessment about a personal situation you face. Time is on your side, so don't feel pressured to make a decision just yet. Your emotions will be difficult to control, causing you to make a mistake. ***

Birthday Baby: You are emotional, sensitive and passionate about life. You are a strong competitor and very serious-minded about family. You are an initiator and a crusader for the weak.

Eugenia's Web sites: astroadvice.com for fun, eugenialast.com for confidential consultations

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

8	7							4	1
		5						8	
	3		2	8	5			7	
			3		8				
				1					
			9		4				
	8		4	9	2			3	
		6					4		
5	9							1	8

Difficulty Level ★★★

3/06

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

4	8	2	5	7	9	6	3	1
1	5	6	2	4	3	9	8	7
9	7	3	1	6	8	5	2	4
8	1	9	7	2	6	3	4	5
7	2	4	3	5	1	8	9	6
6	3	5	8	9	4	1	7	2
5	4	1	9	8	7	2	6	3
2	6	8	4	3	5	7	1	9
3	9	7	6	1	2	4	5	8

Difficulty Level ★★★

WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword!

PLAYING THE CELLO

Solution: 7 letters

T	T	P	R	O	N	A	T	I	O	N	K	P	Q	E
R	N	A	E	P	O	R	U	E	C	C	I	S	U	M
E	E	E	I	R	O	S	I	N	U	T	T	Q	A	S
B	M	D	M	L	N	H	C	L	C	R	O	U	R	R
L	E	S	L	U	P	A	P	H	O	R	F	I	T	E
E	G	O	E	U	R	I	M	K	A	E	A	R	E	S
L	N	U	S	V	O	T	E	B	L	S	O	E	T	O
P	A	N	E	T	A	H	S	C	U	N	E	R	E	P
A	R	D	O	S	I	T	S	N	E	C	I	R	B	M
M	R	O	M	T	S	C	C	T	I	N	O	R	O	O
E	A	O	B	I	E	A	K	O	G	P	I	S	N	C
T	K	W	L	E	R	S	B	S	S	D	O	Y	E	
A	C	L	A	S	S	I	C	O	G	T	U	N	E	
L	E	C	U	R	P	S	L	E	O	T	A	G	E	
C	N	P	I	R	G	O	T	A	C	I	Z	Z	I	P

© 2008 Universal Press Syndicate www.wonderword.com 3/6
Arrangement, Baroque, Bass, Bridge, Carved, Cellist, Classic, Clef, Composers, Cores, Ebony, Endpin, European, Grip, Instrument, Legato, Maple, Metal, Music, Neck, Notes, Octave, Pernambuco, Pitch, Pizzicato, Play, Pluck, Pronation, Quartet, Rosin, Shoulder, Solo, Song, Sound, Spruce, Squire, Sticks, Strings, Stroke, Tailpiece, Tenor, Treble, Tune, Wood
Yesterday's Answer: Laminated
WONDERWORD offers the "Book of Celebrities," for \$5.95 each (US funds only) payable to Universal Press Syndicate plus \$3 postage for the first book order, \$1 plus for each additional book. Send to WONDERWORD, 4520 Main St., Kansas City, Mo. 64111 or call toll-free 1-800-255-6734, ext. 6688. Order online at upuzzles.com.

STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-800-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CLASSIFIED ADS

CLASSIFIEDS RATES AND POLICIES

Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

CLASSIFIED ADS

Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 7-day run on both print and online edition, for as low as \$25 per 3 liner ad for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of below packages that fits your budget.

ADS (7DAYS)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	\$25
• 5-Liner	\$35
• 3-Liner with picture	\$45
• 5-Liner with picture	\$55

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

All job vacancy announcements will be published for two issues in each of two successive weeks.

1st position	\$13.00
2nd position	\$5.00
Succeeding positions	\$2.00

These rates apply to all job vacancy announcements in Saipan that include corresponding benefits and which positions are all under the same company name and dba.

Newspaper clippings are also available for \$.25 per copy.

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Job Vacancy Announcements

Monday Through Friday Issues: All ads placed before 12 noon will come out the next publication date.

Saturday And Sunday Issues:

- Saipan Tribune: All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on either Sunday or Monday issues.

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

Job Vacancy Announcements

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the Saipan Tribune are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

FOR RENT - RESIDENTIAL

DanDan House for Lease/Rent. 2 story concrete house, walled and gated, unfurnished, 5 bedrooms, 3 baths, walk-in closet, carport, outside shower, front porch, basement, large outside kitchen, gazebo, panoramic view of Lailau Bay, rooftop patio, & BBQ, private party area, safe, secure & private comfortable home. Call 288-5264 or 322-0268 view by appointment.

Apartment room for rent: Fully furnished 1 brm, T/B, 24-hr water \$210/month, near Conwood | Tel. 287-1372, 235-6748

2 br furnished apartment w/ laundry facility. Beach Road. Close to beach walking path. \$425/mo. Call 483-1974.

3 Bedroom House for Rent. San Vicente area. Telephone No.: 483-8295

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

2 TELEPHONE CABLE SPLICER (TTH 0002)
Salary:\$3.55/hour. Benefits: Medical & workers compensation. Contact: Saipan World Corp. dba ITS @235-6511.

1 COMMUNICATION ENGINEER (TTH 0003)
Salary:\$3.55/hour. Benefits: Medical & workers compensation. Contact: Saipan World Corp. dba ITS @235-6511.

1 GENERAL MANAGER (TTH 0004)
Salary:\$4.00/hour. Benefits: Medical & workers compensation. Contact: Saipan World Corp. dba ITS @235-6511.

Need Properties.
We are looking for properties, house, building, apartment, etc. Interested owners please see Rayanne @ Yuta Office, Afetna Bldg., San Antonio beside Bank of Guam. Please come personally. No phone calls.

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

1 ACCOUNTANT (TTH 0005)
Salary:\$3.55/hour. Benefits: Medical & workers compensation. Contact: Saipan World Corp. dba ITS @235-6511.

1 ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT (TTH 0006)
Salary:\$3.05/hour. Benefits: Workers compensation & medical care. Contact: Global Ground Corp. @288-1211.

1 ACCOUNTANT (TTH 0007)
Salary:\$3.05/hour. Benefits: Medical & workers compensation. Contact: Global Ground Corp. @288-1211.

1 MANAGER (TTH 0008)
Salary:\$1,800.00/monthly. Benefits: Medical & workers compensation. Contact: Koma Corp. @483-8810.

1 GENERAL MANAGER (TTH 0009)
Salary:\$1,700.00/monthly. Benefits: Medical & workers compensation. Contact: Yihua Corp. @288-1211.

1 AIR-CON MECHANIC (TTH 0010)
Salary:\$3.05/hour. Benefits: \$100.00/housing; \$100.00/food; medical & workers compensation. Contact: Jangahn Investment Corp. dba Prince Hotel @322-9000.

1 SPORTS INSTRUCTOR (TTH 0011)
Salary:\$3.55-\$10.00/hour. Benefits: Free housing except utility; medical bill and workers compensation is company provided. Contact: Big Boy Marine Sports, Inc. dba Big Boy's II Marine @234-3358.

1 ACCOUNTANT (TTH 0012)
Salary:\$3.55-\$8.00/hour. Benefits:

Free housing except utility; medical bill and workers compensation is company provided. Contact: Big Boy Marine Sports, Inc. dba Big Boy's II Marine @234-3358.

1 HEAVY EQUIP. OPERATOR (TTH 0013)
Salary:\$3.55/hour. Benefits: Free housing; transportation to from job-site; medical insurance & workmen's compensation. Contact: Raymond P. Ceron dba Ceron Heavy Equipment & Parts @234-8128.

1 LIVE-IN HOUSEWORKER (TTH 0014)
Salary:\$3.55/hour. Benefits: \$100.00/housing monthly deduction; \$100.00/food monthly deduction & CNMI taxes. Contact: Jeannette Mary T. Pangelinan @483-3326.

1 COMMERCIAL CLEANER (TTH 0015)
Salary:\$3.55/hour. Benefits: Work compensation & medical insurance. Contact: Cargo Express (Saipan), Inc. @234-6616/7/8.

1 MECHANIC (GAS & DIESEL) (TTH 0016)
Salary:\$3.55-\$3.75/hour. Benefits: Work compensation & medical insurance. Contact: Cargo Express (Saipan), Inc. @234-6616/7/8.

1 ACCOUNTANT (TTH 0017)
Salary:\$600.00-\$1,000.00/monthly. Benefits: Self provided housing; self provided food; medical & workers compensation provided. Contact: Marianas Professional Services, Inc. dba LBT Appraisal @234-7325.

1 ARCADE ATTENDANT (TTH 0018)
Salary:\$3.55-\$4.50/hour. Benefits: Medical reimbursable & workers compensation insurance. Contact: Jimin Enterprises, Inc. dba Royal Casino/Grand Poker @235-3455/233-3378.

1 COMMERCIAL CLEANER (TTH 0019)
Salary:\$3.05/hour. Benefits: Workers compensation & medical. Contact: LFP Corporation dba Marg's Kitchen @234-3706.

2 COOK (THS 0007)
Salary:\$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self provided housing; self provided food; medical & workman compensation provided. Contact: Da Kine, Inc. dba Hawaii Bar & Grill @285-3740.

1 BUILDING MAINTENANCE REPAIRER (THS 0008)
Salary:\$3.55/hour. Benefits: Medi-

WHATZIT Solution:
West Side Story

cal & workers compensation. Contact: Islas Marianas, Inc. dba Ace Poker @233-2211.

1 SALES REPRESENTATIVE (THS 0009)
Salary:\$3.55/hour. Benefits: Medical & workers compensation. Contact: Islas Marianas, Inc. dba Ace Poker @233-2211.

1 OPERATION MANAGER (THS 0010)
Salary:\$3.55/hour. Benefits: Medical & workers compensation. Contact: Hanmi, Inc. dba Hanmi Hardware @233-2211.

1 ELECTRICIAN (THS 0011)
Salary:\$3.55/hour. Benefits: Medical & workers compensation. Contact: Hanmi, Inc. dba Hanmi Hardware @233-2211.

1 GENERAL MANAGER (THS 0012)
Salary:\$12.50/hour. Benefits: Employer provide housing; employee provide food; employer provides medical & workers compensation insurance. Contact: Calvo's Insurance Underwriters (CNMI) Inc. @234-5691/4/8.

1 ELECTRONIC TECHNICIAN (THS 0013)
Salary:\$3.55/hour. Benefits: Medical & workers compensation. Contact: Oriental Corporation dba Electronics World @233-1212.

2 MASON (THS 0014)
Salary:\$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self arrange housing; own food; medical & workmen's compensation. Contact: Lolita N. Palacios dba J&L House Rental @234-1081.

1 CARPENTER (THS 0015)
Salary:\$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self arrange housing; own food; medical & workmen's compensation. Contact: Lolita N. Palacios dba J&L House Rental @234-1081.

1 COMMERCIAL CLEANER (THS 0016)
Salary:\$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self arrange housing; own food; medical & workmen's compensation. Contact: Lolita N. Palacios dba J&L House Rental @234-1081.

1 BIOMEDICAL (SERVICE ENGINEER) TECHNICIAN (THS 0017)
Salary:\$5.00-\$15.00/hour. Benefits: Self provided housing; self provided food; workers compensation as required by law & medical coverage as required by law. Contact: Pacific Biomedical Services, Inc. dba PBSI @288-0566.

STOLEN PASSPORT

Name: Gao, Yueying
Passport No.: G051224346 • Shanghai, CHN
If found, please return black purse & contents.
Phone: 285-7359, 235-0888

STOLEN PASSPORT & ENTRY PERMIT

Name: Shen, Yue • Passport No.: G24254436
Shanghai, CHN • Entry Permit # 312622 • Exp. 9/26/08
If found, please return black purse & contents.
Phone: 285-7359, 235-0888

WHATZIT?

Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.

once upon a time

N

E

S

Find today's solution in this section

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

**1 MASSEUR/MASSEUSE (THS 0018)**

Salary:\$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self arranged housing; self provided; workmen's compensation provided & transportation self arrange. Contact: Editha G. Welle dba Cristelle's Beauty Parlor @235-4536.

2 BEAUTICIAN (THS 0019)

Salary:\$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self arranged housing; self provided; workmen's compensation provided & transportation self arrange. Contact: Editha G. Welle dba Cristelle's Beauty Parlor @235-4536.

1 CONSTRUCTION WORKER (THS 0020)

Salary:\$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self housing; self food; medical & workmen compensation. Contact: Unicorn Corporation @322-3364.

1 AUTO MECHANIC (THS 0021)

Salary:\$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self arranged housing; self arranged food; medical & workmen's compensation provided. Contact: Joseph J.A. Pablo dba 3G's Services @233-7069.

1 DRESSMAKER (THS 0022)

Salary:\$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self ar-

anged housing; food not provided; medical & workmen's compensation provided. Contact: JAP Professional Corp. dba Lenchies Fashion @285-9500.

1 ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT (THS 0023)

Salary:\$3.05/hour. Benefits: Self arranged housing; food not provided; medical & workmen's compensation provided. Contact: Rolando Lagartos dba R&R Auto Repair Shop @285-9500.

1 IRONER (THS 0024)

Salary:\$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self arranged housing; self arranged food; self arranged transportation to and from job; workmen's compensation & medical expenses. Contact: Shao Hongxia Jones dba Beauty Boutique & Dress Shop @287-8206.

1 A/C TECHNICIAN (THS 0025)

Salary:\$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self arrangement housing; self arrangement food; workmen's compensation & medical provided by employer. Contact: Gonzalo V. Pangelinan Jr. dba Pacific Airconditioning @234-9267.

1 SALES REPRESENTATIVE (THS 0026)

Salary:\$3.55/hour. Benefits: Work-

ers compensation & medical expenses company provided. Contact: Kumanomi Island Co., Ltd. @233-6298.

1 WAITRESS/WAITER (THS 0027)

Salary:\$3.55/hour. Benefits: Workers compensation & medical expenses company provided. Contact: Kumanomi Island Co., Ltd. @233-6298.

1 GENERAL MANAGER (THS 0028)

Salary:\$2,000.00/monthly. Benefits: Workers compensation & medical expenses company provided. Contact: Treasures Inc. @233-3701.

1 ACCOUNTANT (THS 0029)

Salary:\$4.05-\$7.75/hour. Benefits: \$10.00-\$50.00/gas allowance; workers compensation & medical insurance company provided. Contact: H.I.S. Saipan Inc. @234-7053.

1 SCUBA DIVING INSTRUCTOR (THS 0030)

Salary:\$3.05-\$3.55/hour. Benefits: Medical expense & workers compensation employer provided. Contact: Wondersea Saipan Inc. @233-7011.

The Saipan Tribune now offers

Classified Ads Super Saver Package

for Print and Online Editions

A complete 7-day run for car sales, employment, garage sales, apartment rentals, announcements, lost and found, business services, and more...

3-LINER AD

\$25

3-LINER AD W/ PHOTO

\$45

5-LINER AD

\$35

5-LINER AD W/ PHOTO

\$55

Get results. Advertise now!

Call now at **235-2769** for more details.

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER



Make it a **daily** habit!

www.saipantribune.com



PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY CNMI GOVERNMENT

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS RFPO8-CRM-047



SUBMISSION: APRIL 03, 2008

TIME: 4:00 P.M.

"COMPILATION OF A CNMI CORAL REEF CURRICULUM FOR THE COASTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT OFFICE"

COPIES OF THE SCOPE OF WORK MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY IN LOWERBASE DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

PREFERENCE IS AVAILABLE TO US CITIZENS OR PERMANENT RESIDENTS AS PER PUBLIC LAW 15-95 AND AS FURTHER AMENDED BY PUBLIC LAW 15-118 AND MUST BE SUBMITTED WITH THE PROPOSAL IF PREFERENCED IS CLAIMED.

ALL INQUIRIES REGARDING THIS RFP SHOULD BE DIRECTED TO REINA CAMACHO, CORAL REEF EDUCATION AND OUTREACH COORDINATOR, AT FAX 664-8540, OR E-MAIL TO reinacamacho@deqgov.mp.

/s/ **JOHN B. JOYNER, Ph.D.**
DIRECTOR, CRMO

/s/ **HERMAN S. SABLAN**
DIRECTOR, P&S



COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950

Phone: (1-670) 664-3500/1 • Fax: (1-670) 234-5962

E-mail Address: cpa.admin@saipan.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

JOB VACANCIES ANNOUNCEMENT

Opening date: Feb. 22, 2008

Closing date: March 7, 2008

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) announces the following job vacancies for Saipan Airport, Port of Saipan, and Tinian Airport/Seaport:

- 1-Executive Director
- 1-Airport Manager
- 2-Electricians
- 1-Vessel Traffic Controller-I (Seaport)
- 2-General Maintenance-I (Seaport)
- 3-Ports Police Trainees (Tinian)
- 1-Tariff Technician-I (Tinian)
- 2-General Maintenance-I (Tinian)

- 1-Comptroller
- 1-Civil Engineer
- 2-Mechanic-III

Detailed information on minimum qualifications and position description for the above positions may be picked up along with the application form during regular working hours at the CPA's Office (2nd Floor) of the Saipan International Airport, Arrival Wing, or may be downloaded by visiting CPA's website at www.cpa.gov.mp. For Tinian's vacancies, application may be picked up at CPA's Office at the Tinian International Airport.

All applications must be accompanied with a copy of all required diploma/certificates and/or official transcript, original copy of recent police record, original copy of U.S. Department of Defense Form DD214 for retired members or veterans of our Armed Forces, and other documents as required for the position. Public Law 11-70 requires that all male applicants age 18 to 26 years old must submit documentation evidencing his registration with the Federal Selective Service System. Failure to provide any of the required documents may result in automatic disqualification. Pre-qualified applicants for the Ports Police Trainee vacancy must undergo and pass the physical fitness test as prerequisite for interview and selection process. Selected applicants will be subjected to pre-employment drug screening. The deadline for submission of applications is no later than **4:30 p.m., March 7, 2008**.

CPA is an Equal Opportunity Employer and CPA hires those who are legally entitled to employment in the CNMI.

/s/ **REX I. PALACIOS**
Chairman
Board of Directors



NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION

AMENDED NOTICE OF FUNDING AVAILABILITY of COMMUNITY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT FUNDS for PROGRAM YEAR 2008 and NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

This advertisement is paid for by NMHC with CPD Funds.

The Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, through the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) is announcing the availability of \$2,020,822 in Community Planning and Development (CPD) funds available from the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. NMHC anticipates receiving \$1,374,719 in Community Development Block Grants (CDBG); \$583,259 Home Investment Partnership (HOME); and, \$62,844 Emergency Shelter Grant (ESG) funds for Program Year (PY) 2008.

The CDBG funds, authorized under Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, may be used for a wide range of community development activities to revitalize neighborhoods, provide affordable housing, expand economic opportunities, and improve community facilities and services. However, use of these funds must meet at least one of the national objectives which include: 1) to benefit low and moderate-income families; 2) to eliminate slum or blight conditions; or 3) to meet other urgent community development needs.

The CDBG program requires a grant recipient to certify that it will minimize displacement of persons as a result of activities assisted with CDBG funds. The CNMI government does not plan on undertaking any activity which will cause displacement of persons. In the event of any unforeseen displacement resulting from any CDBG funded activity, the CNMI government will comply with the requirements of the Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970, its implementing regulation and applicable local law.

HOME funds may be used to create affordable housing through financing assistance, site acquisition or improvement, and rehabilitating existing residential dwellings as well as providing funds for new construction or purchase of a single-family residential dwelling. Use of HOME funds must benefit low-income families.

ESG funds may be used to rehabilitate or convert buildings into homeless shelters and for shelter operating expenses, supportive services and homeless prevention activities. Use of ESG funds must benefit the homeless.

Information concerning eligibility uses of the grant funds may be obtained upon request at the respective offices of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) located on Garapan, Saipan; San Jose, Village, Tinian; and, Songsong Village, Rota.

In order to plan ahead as to the use(s) of the PY 2008 allocation, the NMHC will be conducting hearings to obtain public input on community development and housing needs, and to provide information to the public on the status of the approved ongoing CDBG projects. The public hearings will be held as follows:

- 1. On Rota, March 18, 2008, at 6:30 p.m. at the CDA/NMHC Office, 1st Floor, Sunset Villa Hotel;
- 2. On Tinian, March 19, 2008, at 6:30 p.m. at the CDA/NMHC Office in San Jose Village; and,
- 3. On Saipan, March 20, 2008, at 6:30 p.m. at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan.

Accommodations for disabled individuals or other non-English speaking individuals who wish to attend the public hearing is available upon request by giving at least 24 hours notice prior to the meeting so that such needs can be arranged and provided. Additional inquiries concerning the CDBG program may be directed in writing to the Corporate Director, Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, P.O. 500514, Saipan, MP, 96950, or by calling Zenie P. Mafnas, Grant Writer/Planner at 234-6866 or 234-7689.

/s/ **Joshua T. Sasamoto**
Corporate Director

"NMHC is a fair housing agency and an equal opportunity provider, lender and employer"

COASTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT



NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Coastal Resources Management Office (CRMO) will hold a public hearing regarding Coastal Permit Application No. TMS-2008-X-016 for FPA Pacific Corporation to conduct quarry operations on 4.9 hectares of land located in the vicinity of Marpo Valley in Tinian. The site is expected to yield approximately 2.5 million cubic yards of limestone material over a period of 25 years. The method of quarrying will use heavy equipments and periodic blasting. Quarrying activities will include crushing, digging, sifting, sorting, and transporting. Blasting will occur approximately once a month.

The public hearing will be held on Tuesday, March 25, 2008 at 6:30 pm, at the Tinian Elementary School Cafeteria, in San Jose Village, Tinian.

The public is invited to attend the hearing and make oral comments regarding this matter. The FPA Pacific Corporation project file is open for review 7:30 A.M. – 4:30 P.M. Monday – Thursday at the CRM office. Written comments may be submitted to the CRM Office located on the 2nd floor of the Morgen Building in Oleai, or mailed to Coastal Resources Management Office, Caller Box 10007, or faxed to 664-8315. All written and oral comments received will be made a part of the permit record, and will be considered in any decision made concerning the proposed matter.

Please contact Coastal Resources Management at 664-8300/1 if you have any questions or require further information regarding this public hearing.

JOHN B. JOYNER, Ph.D.
Director
Coastal Resources Management

'Tired' Brett Favre ends dazzling career

Green Bay Packers quarterback Brett Favre reacts after throwing a touchdown pass to Bubba Franks during the first half of an NFL football game against the San Diego Chargers in Green Bay, Wis., in this Sept. 23, 2007 file photo.

AP



GREEN BAY, Wis. (AP)—After flirting with retirement for years, Brett Favre means it this time. The Green Bay Packers quarterback quit a 17-season career in which he dazzled fans with his grit, heart and rocket of an arm.

"I know I can still play, but it's like I told my wife, I'm just tired mentally. I'm just tired," Favre told ESPN's Chris Mortensen in a voice mail message.

Tuesday's surprise move comes just months since the 38-year-old three-time MVP set several league records, including most career touchdown passes, in one of his most successful seasons.

Coach Mike McCarthy said Favre in-

formed him of the decision by telephone Monday night.

"He said it was time for him to hang up the cleats," McCarthy said at a news conference Tuesday afternoon.

Favre's agent, Bus Cook, also learned of the decision Monday.

"Nobody pushed Brett Favre out the door, but then nobody encouraged him not to go out that door, either," Cook told The Associated Press by phone from his Hattiesburg, Miss., office.

Packers general manager Ted Thompson thanked Favre for 16 years of wonderful memories with the team.

"His accomplishments are legendary," Thompson said. "And it's the passion with which he played that made everyone a Brett Favre fan."

The team hasn't said when Favre might address the media.

Favre led the Packers to the NFC championship game in January, but his interception in overtime set up the New York Giants' winning field goal.

"If I felt like coming back—and Deanna (Favre's wife) and I talked about this—the only way for me to be successful would be to win a Super Bowl," Favre told ESPN. "To go to the Super Bowl and lose, would almost be worse than anything else. Anything less than a Super Bowl win would be unsuccessful."

Last season, Favre broke Dan Marino's career records for most touchdown passes and most yards passing and John Elway's record for most career victories by a starting quarterback.

Football lauds retiring Brett Favre

Tony Romo is going to miss watching Brett Favre as much as anyone.

The Dallas Cowboys quarterback grew up in Wisconsin watching Favre and the Green Bay Packers. And Romo modeled his game after that of the three-time MVP, who retired Tuesday after 17 extraordinary seasons in the NFL.

"His style of play was as unique as it was effective," Romo said. "I admired his skills, his leadership, and especially his love for playing the game. You knew he was having fun when he played, and that made him fun to watch. He set the standard at the position for a long time."

Romo and Favre started against each other only once, on a Thursday night in November at Texas Stadium. Romo outplayed Favre, before Favre was hurt in the second quarter of a 37-27 victory for Dallas.

A New York Giants team coached by Tom Coughlin beat Favre and the Packers in the NFC championship game en route to winning the Super Bowl.

"What he has meant to Green Bay and that franchise and to the fans in Green Bay has been a tremendous rallying point throughout the 16 years he played there," Coughlin said. "He's brought them a Super Bowl victory, he brought them to another appearance in the Super Bowl and brought them to the NFC Championship Game this year."

Giants cornerback Corey Webster intercepted Favre's last pass in overtime of the NFC championship game that set up Lawrence Tynes' winning field goal.

"It's an honor to have competed against Brett Favre in his last game," Webster said. "Brett is by far one of the best quarterbacks I have ever competed against."

Hall of Fame coach Marv Levy admired Favre's competitiveness.

"He was the prototypical gunslinger type," Levy said. "He's the type of guy where, 'Oh, what's he throwing into that crowd for?' But he had intuition, toughness, resilience. It helped to have a good cast around him, which he often

did. Those are all qualities which good quarterbacks have."

Bears coach Lovie Smith joked that he won't miss having to face him twice a season.

"I think this announcement comes about 17 years too late and I don't know if I will completely believe it until Green Bay opens the season without No. 4 lining up under center," he said. "In all seriousness, no one has given more to our game than Brett Favre. There is no player I respect more. He is one of the all-time greats to ever play in the NFL."

Favre started 253 consecutive regular-season games, a standard of durability that leaves Bengals quarterback Carson Palmer in awe.

"As great a passer as he was, the thing I really admired was his toughness," Palmer said. "His record for most consecutive starts will never be broken. It's one of the most amazing records in sports. I guarantee you, he gets an immense amount of respect from every quarterback in the NFL for that record."

Praise for Favre extended beyond the football field. Seven-time Tour de France champion Lance Armstrong grew up a Cowboys fan, but that in no way diminished his regard for Favre.

"To me he's an ironman," Armstrong said Tuesday after speaking at an anti-smoking rally in Wisconsin. "He was around a long time. He played hard the whole time. He worked hard the whole time. He inspired and encouraged his team the whole time. He played through pain, he played through losses."

Armstrong said the two athletes he respects most are Favre and Andre Agassi.

"They were guys that played through pain, played through misery," he said.

Armstrong, a cancer survivor, said he also admired Favre for talking about his wife Deanna's battle with breast cancer.

"Just that fact that she was brave enough, and he brave enough to stand up as her husband, to tell the world about her disease," Armstrong said. "It's not easy to do that." (AP)

Warren Sapp officially retires

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP)—Warren Sapp's 13-year NFL career officially ended when his retirement was posted on the Oakland Raiders' Web site.

Sapp said immediately after last season that he was through playing, but did not file the paper work. The posting on the team's site was the first official word that the star defensive tackle was done.

In January, the 35-year-old Sapp posted a two-word message on his Web site: "I'M DONE!" He had told teammates and coaches his plans after the season finale against San Diego.

Considered the quintessential "three technique" defensive tackle—lining up between the offensive guard and tackle—Sapp made seven Pro Bowls, won the 1999 Associated Press Defensive Player of the Year award, and led Tampa Bay's dominant defense that won the Super Bowl after the 2002 season.

Sapp spent nine seasons in Tampa before joining the Raiders in 2004 as a free agent. He mostly struggled with the Raiders, except for a strong 2006 in which he had 10 sacks, and had become more of a situational player in his final season.

In 2007, he had only two sacks and the Raiders' defense struggled against the run, allowing a league-worst 4.8 yards per carry.

Sapp finished his career with 96 1/2 sacks, 28th overall since

the NFL began keeping track of the statistic in 1982, but extra impressive because he played tackle.

His running "feud" with Packers quarterback Brett Favre—who coincidentally announced his retirement Tuesday as well—brought some levity to a sometimes brutal game. Sapp was known as a trash talker, and Favre often went directly back at him with a smile when both the Bucs and Packers were in the same division and played twice a season.

Sapp starred in college at Miami, where he arrived as a tight end and left as the best defensive player in the country. He slipped to No. 12 in the 1995 draft after testing positive for marijuana at the scouting combine.

That was just one controversy in Sapp's career. In 2002, he nearly ended the career of Packers offensive tackle Chad Clifton with a vicious hit while trying to throw a block after an interception. Then-Packers coach Mike Sherman confronted Sapp on the field after the game, calling it a dirty play.

Sapp was fined \$50,000 for bumping an official in 2003 and was fined \$75,000 after being ejected following three personal fouls in the next-to-last game of his career against Jacksonville.

He retires with 5,377 career completions in 8,758 attempts for 61,655 yards, 442 touchdowns and 288 interceptions.

ZHall of Fame quarterback Troy Aikman wondered if Favre's decision was final.

"As the season gets closer, I wouldn't be surprised at all if he changes his mind," said Aikman, a Fox analyst who played 12 years with the Dallas Cowboys.

The news stunned many.

"I was surprised when I heard it this morning," former Packers general manager Ron Wolf said. "He played with such a great passion. He must have figured he no longer had that passion, and it was time to get out."

Even Favre's teammates didn't see it coming.

"I just saw it come across the TV," Packers wide receiver Koren Robinson said, when reached on his cell phone by The Associated Press.

In his final season, Favre also extended his quarterback-record streak of consecutive regular-season starts to 253 games—illustrating his trademark tough-

ness. Add the playoffs, and Favre's streak stands at 275.

In the past several off-seasons, Favre's indecision about his football future became a winter tradition in Wisconsin, with Cheeseheads hanging on his every word.

Unlike after the 2006 season—when Favre choked up in a television interview as he walked off the field in Chicago, only to return once again—nearly everyone assumed he would be back next season.

It was a remarkable turnaround from 2005, Favre's final season under former head coach Mike Sherman, when he threw a career-worst 29 interceptions as the Packers went 4-12.

Surrounded by an underrated group of wide receivers who proved hard to tackle after the catch, Favre had a career-high completion percentage of 66.5. He threw for 4,155 yards, 28 touchdowns and only 15 interceptions.

Before the Packers' Jan. 12 divisional playoff game against Seattle, Favre told his home-

town newspaper that he wasn't approaching the game as if it would be his last and was more optimistic than in years past about returning.

"For the first time in three years, I haven't thought this could be my last game," Favre told the Biloxi (Miss.) Sun Herald. "I would like to continue longer."

But Favre finished the season on a sour note, struggling in subzero temperatures in a 23-20 overtime loss to the New York Giants in the NFC championship game.

Afterward, Favre was non-committal on his future. McCarthy said he wanted Favre to take a step back from the season before making a decision.

Now he has—to walk away. "The Packers owe him a tremendous debt of gratitude," Thompson said in a statement. "The uniqueness of Brett Favre his personality, charisma and love of the game—undoubtedly will leave him as one of the enduring figures in NFL history."

Duncan, Spurs beat Nets for 10th straight win



SAN ANTONIO (AP)—Tim Duncan had 29 points and 12 rebounds, and the San Antonio Spurs beat the New Jersey Nets 81-70 for their 10th straight NBA victory on Tuesday.

Manu Ginobili added 12 points for the Spurs, who sit atop a competitive Western Conference, where just a handful of games separates them from the eighth-place Golden State Warriors.

Vince Carter led New Jersey with 19 points.

The Spurs dispatched the Nets with ease for the second time in three days, winning the season series 2-0.

Lakers 117, Kings 105

At Sacramento, California, Kobe Bryant scored 17 of his 34 points in an electric fourth-quarter performance, and Pau Gasol added 31 points in Los Angeles' 12th victory in 13 games.

Bryant scored all of his fourth-quarter points in the final 5:56 against the Kings, including 11 straight as the Lakers took their first lead in a mean-spirited game between longtime rivals. Bryant, newly christened the NBA's player of the month for February, led the way with a series of ballistic moves, including a spinning layup and a 360-degree two-handed jam as Los Angeles pulled away.

Kevin Martin and Ron Artest scored 23 points apiece for the Kings, who lost for the fifth time in six games.

Suns 97, Trail Blazers 92

At Portland, Oregon, Amare Stoudemire scored 22 points and Phoenix fought off a late surge by Portland.

Phoenix had lost two straight and was 2-4 since adding center Shaquille O'Neal to the lineup. The Suns have also surrendered the top spot of the Western Conference's Pacific Division to the Los Angeles Lakers.

O'Neal finished with six points and 13 rebounds.

The Suns led by as many as 23 points while Portland struggled on both ends, but Steve Blake's layup early in the fourth quarter nar-



San Antonio Spurs' Tim Duncan looks to pass off after getting a rebound against New Jersey Nets' Josh Boone, left, and Trenton Hassell, right, during the fourth quarter of an NBA basketball game in San Antonio, Tuesday, March 4, 2008.

rowed it to 79-73.

Brandon Roy had 25 points for Portland, which has lost five of its last seven with hopes for the playoffs slipping away.

Magic 102, Raptors 87

At Orlando, Florida, Hedo Turkoglu scored 24 points, Dwight Howard overcame a slow start to collect 19 points and 14 rebounds, and Orlando beat Toronto.

Howard had only three points on 1-for-3 shooting until the fourth quarter, sitting long stretches with foul trouble. He seemed energized after the rest, and scored six straight in a 1:10 stretch that expanded Orlando's lead to 89-79 with six minutes remaining.

T.J. Ford single-handedly kept Toronto alive in the fourth quarter. He scored 13 of his 20 points in the period, the first 13 the Raptors had. But Toronto lost its third straight.

gery Jan. 22, was in the training room rehabbing. But when reporters asked a Knicks official if the point guard would come out and speak, they were told he had already left.

Marbury hasn't talked to the press since Jan. 16, the day before deciding to have surgery after an MRI exam. Thomas said before Monday's game he expected Marbury to be there to answer questions, but Marbury never showed. Thomas also said he expects Marbury at Wednesday's game.

That all comes after it was reported Thomas told Marbury to stay away from the team while rehabbing. Marbury hasn't been seen at any home games since his surgery, though the Knicks say he has been at their training center during practices getting treatment.

It isn't clear whether the Knicks require or expect injured players to attend home games. Forward Zach Randolph stayed home Monday with his bruised foot, but guard Jamal Crawford came most of the time last season when he was able to

start to beat Seattle.

Seattle shot 82 percent in the first quarter on its way to a 41-28 lead, but that fell to 32 percent in the final three periods as the SuperSonics lost for the fifth time in six games. The Pistons have defeated the Sonics seven straight times.

Richard Hamilton scored 18 for Detroit. Earl Watson had 23 for Seattle, while Chris Wilcox and Kevin Durant added 20 apiece.

Bulls 112, Grizzlies 97

At Chicago, Drew Gooden and Luol Deng scored 21 points apiece, and Chicago beat Memphis to extend the Grizzlies' losing streak to nine games.

Gooden had his best game since the Bulls acquired him, hitting 10 of 15 shots and grabbing 14 rebounds. Kirk Hinrich added 19 points and 12 assists, while Andres Nocioni scored 20.

Kyle Lowry scored 24 for Memphis, which is on its longest losing streak since an 0-13 start in 2002.

Warriors 135, Hawks 118

At Atlanta, Baron Davis scored 35 points, Stephen Jackson had 29, and Mickael Pietrus finished with 19 points and 12 rebounds to lead Golden State to its fourth straight victory, beating Atlanta.

The Warriors, who lead the NBA in scoring, set their season high for points. Golden State improved to 16-12 on the road, its most victories away from Oakland since 1994.

Joe Johnson had 38 points for the Hawks.

Bobcats 109, Timberwolves 89

At Minneapolis, Jason Richardson had 25 points and eight rebounds, Emeka Okafor added 19 points and 11 boards, and Charlotte snapped a nine-game road losing streak with a victory over Minnesota.

Matt Carroll scored 18 points for the Bobcats, who won for just the fifth time on the road this season and first since Jan. 28.

Al Jefferson had 18 points and 11 rebounds for the Timberwolves.

Pistons 100, SuperSonics 97

At Auburn Hills, Michigan, Tayshaun Prince scored 24 points, Chauncey Billups added 20 points and nine assists, and Detroit overcame a slow

NBA BRIEFS

Cassell heading to Boston

BOSTON (AP)—Former Los Angeles Clippers point guard Sam Cassell cleared waivers on Monday night and was planning to fly to Boston on Tuesday to sign with the Celtics. "We anticipate him being a member of the Celtics," team spokesman Jeff Twiss said. "He is not a member of the Celtics until he signs, which will not be until he gets into town sometime [Tuesday]." Cassell was virtually begging to be let go by the Clippers, who owed him \$6.1 million this season in the final year of his contract, and be signed by the Celtics. He got his wish on Thursday, when Los Angeles bought out his contract and waived him. The Celtics were allowed to sign him as of 6 p.m. Monday night, but Cassell was expected to finalize the deal when he arrived in town. Whether he suits up for Wednesday night's game against Eastern Conference rival Detroit is up to coach Doc Rivers, Twiss said. Cassell's arrival comes a week after Boston, which has the NBA's best record (46-12) signed big man P.J. Brown. Brown, who had been out of the league this season, has not suited up for a game yet. The 38-year-old Cassell missed four straight games with a sprained right wrist before being cut loose by the Clippers; he also missed 12 games earlier in the season with a strained left calf. In 38 games, Cassell averaged 12.8 points, 4.7 assists, 2.8 rebounds and 25.7 minutes. Cassell was a member of the Houston Rockets teams that won NBA titles in 1994 and '95. His best season with the Clippers was in 2005-06, when he averaged 17.2 points and 6.3 assists and helped them move within a game of the Western Conference finals. In Boston, he will be reunited with Kevin Garnett, his former teammate in Minnesota.

Wizards guard Arenas cleared to practice

WASHINGTON (AP)—Gilbert Arenas will return to practice Tuesday for the Washington Wizards, the latest step in his long recovery from knee surgery. "They cleared me to go out there and go full speed," the three-time All-Star guard said Monday. "But I am just going to take it slow." Arenas' left knee has been acting up for nearly a year. He had surgery last April and pursued an aggressive rehabilitation regimen so that he could return for the start of this season. He lasted only eight games before having two more surgical procedures on his knee on Nov. 21. Arenas began taking part in light, non-contact drills two weeks ago. There is still no timetable for his return to the lineup for the Wizards, who are also missing All-Star forward Caron Butler. "It's nerve-racking because I don't want to get hurt again," Arenas said. "Two injuries back-to-back kind of messes with a guy's mental state. I am going to take it slow, work out tomorrow before practice, practice with the team—and every day I am just going to try to build up the confidence mentally." Despite Arenas' injury, the Wizards were contending for the Southeast Division title until Butler was sidelined a month ago with a hip injury. After a long slump, Washington has rebounded to win four of its past five and move within one game of .500, good enough for sixth place in the Eastern Conference.

Suns sign Giricek for rest of season

PHOENIX (AP)—The Phoenix Suns signed guard Gordan Giricek on Tuesday to a contract for the rest of the season. Giricek, waived by the Philadelphia 76ers on Friday, joins his fifth NBA team. The 6-foot-6 Croatian played parts of six seasons with Memphis, Orlando and Utah before being traded to Philadelphia last Dec. 29. Suns general manager Steve Kerr called the 30-year-old Giricek "an excellent shooter, a solid defender and a proven playoff performer." He shot a career-best 42.6 percent from 3-point range for the Jazz in 2006-07. He has averaged 9.6 points in 362 NBA games. The Suns also signed forward Linton Johnson to a second 10-day contract.

Isiah Thomas fed up talking about Marbury

GREENBURGH, N.Y. (AP)—Isiah Thomas refused to clear up the mysteries regarding Stephon Marbury's status with the New York Knicks on Tuesday.

Then again, it's hard to provide much detail in 2 minutes, 9 seconds.

That's how long it took the coach to cut short his latest remarks to the media, fed up with talking about a player who may not even wear a Knicks uniform again.

Thomas also abruptly ended two sessions the previous day when the topic of Marbury came up. He tried to steer the topic to basketball Tuesday, but there's not much to talk about there after the Knicks fell to 18-42 with Monday's loss to New Orleans. New York hosts Cleveland on Wednesday.

"We have our hands full with Chris Paul and LeBron James, and when you have the opportunity to speak with Steph you can ask him all the questions that you need to ask him," Thomas said.

Thomas said Marbury, who had left ankle sur-

get around following ankle surgery.

"There was never any rules really discussed with me, I was just there," Crawford said. "I just wanted to be around."

But Thomas may not care if Marbury is, since he already seems ready for life without him. The relationship between the coach and point guard has been strained since November, when Marbury skipped a game in Phoenix following a dispute with Thomas.

Last week, Thomas said the Knicks would need a third guard next season to play with Crawford and Nate Robinson, even though Marbury will still be under contract. So if Thomas is still around, it seems likely that Marbury won't be.

Then Thomas won't have to deal with any more Marbury queries.

"Any questions about LeBron? LeBron James?"

Thomas said after the fifth in a row about Marbury.

"Going once, going twice?"

And then he was gone.

Realtors finally bag all-Filipino crown

MANILA, Philippines—Dennis Espino provided himself a special moment to look back to in his career: An all-Filipino title for the team he has stayed loyal to for 13 years.

Labeled as one of the league's biggest underachievers in the past, Espino hit all the crucial shots for the Realtors down the stretch in a 100-88 Game 7 victory over Purefoods Sunday night that put an end to a classic Smart PBA Philippine Cup championship series.

The 6-foot-6 Sta. Lucia skipper hit four crucial baskets in a telling 13-2 run inside the final 5:48 as the Realtors turned a 79-80 deficit into a 92-82 lead with 1:49 left to close out the bruising series before a virtual sea of humanity at the Araneta Coliseum in Quezon City.

"I told my teammates (before the game) that there is no tomorrow for us after this," Espino, who has been given credit by management and coaching staff for holding the team together on and off the court, said in Filipino.

"I asked them to give it their all tonight."

Finals MVP

Espino finished with 29 points and was adjudged Finals Most Valuable Player for the first time

BUCHER

From Page 28

Allen helped me to get back on track."

Bucher spent eight weeks with Collenson, who will also compete in Saturday's XTERRA, in Sunshine Coast to prepare for XTERRA and Tagaman. "Going to Saipan is the best time for me to take a few days off before competing. I am always grateful for PIC for allowing me to have a wonderful stay every time I'm on Saipan."

Bucher said she felt bad

SARAH

From Page 28

continues to motivate me to do my best."

Johnson now joins the long list of top female athletes that included Noriko Jim, Nina Mosley, Beverly Igitol, Julie Tokyo, Tamiko Winkfield, and Kathryn Sinclair, to name a few.

Johnson said she did not expect to win since she was up against other top athletes. "I was surprised that I [have] won because all the athletes that were nominated were just as deserv-

CLUB

From Page 28

division's turn to play with Matanza meeting MP United FC-Blue over at GTC while Independent FC-1 tackles Paire FC-Red at SSHS and MP United FC-White collides with Paire



Sta. Lucia Realty's Buddy Encarnado holds up the championship trophy after prevailing over Purefoods in the best-of-seven Smart PBA Philippine Cup series.

in his career, leading the Realtors to only their second championship in 15 years.

This one, though, was undoubtedly the sweeter one considering the circumstances surrounding these playoffs.

Joseph Yeo kicked off the Realtors' final run, zigzagging past a phalanx of defenders to nail a left-handed lay-up for an 81-80 lead before Espino scored three of the next four unanswered Sta. Lucia baskets that signaled the start of the end for the Tender Juicy Giants.

The 34-year-old Espino's heroics started in the second half, when he hit 12 in the third before topping it with 10 in the playoff period. He also had five rebounds and a block in 31 minutes.

Kelly Williams scored 17 points in a splendid support job, while rookie point guard Ryan Reyes contributed 12 and Nels

bert Omolon and Marlou Aquino added 11 each.

The championship was also the first for coach Boyet Fernandez—either as a player or a coach—in 12 years in the league. And he gave it to the team where he started and ended his playing career dating back to the amateurs.

Peter June Simon led Purefoods with 27 points, and James Yap had 21 but was unable to

for the Beijing Olympics in Aug. 8.

"Olivier will also skip this year's XTERRA and Tagaman to concentrate more in an Olympic-distance triathlon in Mooloolaba, Australia."

After XTERRA and Tagaman, Bucher will return to Australia to spend eight more days training before heading back to Europe to compete in another Mt. Bike qualifying race on March 29 in Germany.

After Germany, the next race will be in April in Spain. Bucher will also compete in several races in Belgium and Italy.

Earning a slot in the Swiss National mountain bike team and qualify for the 2008 Olympics in China is one of Bucher's dreams this year. "I hope I could qualify for the Olympics for the first time and represent my country."

She said selection for Switzerland's Mt. Bike National team is ongoing and she had competed in various tournaments in Europe in order to qualify.

Bucher's countryman and close friend Olivier Marceau, who is a four-time XTERRA Saipan champion, is also busy trying to qualify again for the Swiss national triathlon team

ing more than two seconds from her all-time best in the 100m Freestyle with an impressive time of 1:06.56. Her previous best time was 1:08.76.

She then improved her 43.15-second time in the 50m breaststroke when she logged in 37.86 en route to posting lifetime best swims in four other events to go 6-for-6 at the pool at Rod Laver Arena including a six-second drop in the 200m freestyle event, which was two seconds better of the CNMI National Record.

Johnson aims to break at least one CNMI swimming record this year. "I hope to con-

tinue to finish in the top three in on island and off island competitions."

She also wished the other nominees the best of luck for their respective sports in 2008. "Let's all continue to do our best in our sports."

Johnson started competitive swimming when she was eight years old, joining SSC after graduating from the Red Cross Swimming program. "I chose swimming because it is a sport where you compete against other people as well as yourself. Each event that I swim, I try to get a personal best time."

sociation. The four clubs are the Matanza (Northern Saipan), MP United (Central Saipan), Paire (East Saipan and San Vicente area), and Independents (South Saipan and Koblerville area).

Membership in the youth league grew from 70 to 390 kids playing in a total of 32 teams in four different locations on Saipan.

also at 3pm.

In the Under-15 boys' division, Matanza faces Paire FC at 4pm at GTC while the same teams will also play in the 5pm match in the Under-15 girls' class.

The four clubs are created early this year to become affiliated members under the Northern Mariana Islands Football As-

Import-hunting

Meanwhile, the hunt for reinforcements for the Fiesta Cup is on, and it is curious to note that Alaska still doesn't have one to banner its title defense.

"We've hired and lost about three guys already," coach Tim Cone told the Philippine Daily Inquirer (parent company of INQUIRER.net) over the phone.

"It's either they are injured or they want more money," Cone explained as two of those prospects wanted something like \$50,000 a month in base pay after their original choice, Jeff Graves, became unavailable because of injury.

The maximum salary for imports is \$20,000 a month and this is exclusive of P5,000 a week for food expenses, P80,000 a month for accommodation and a car and driver.

Sta. Lucia 100 – Espino 29, Williams 17, Reyes 12, Omolon 11, Aquino 11, Yeo 9, Gonzales 7, Miranda 4, Coronel 0, Daa 0.

Purefoods 88 – Simon 27, J. Yap 21, Raymundo 11, R. Yap 9, Pingris 7, Salvador 5, Adducul 4, Lanete 2, Yee 2, Evangelista 0, Castillo 0.

Quarters: 18-21, 44-45, 71-70, 100-88. (PDI)

GARAPAN

From Page 28

nan went perfect, 4-for-4, and scored two runs.

The Lady Marlins put to waste Natasha Ngrasui's first-inning, two-run home run. She went 2-for-3 with one run and three RBIs, while Michelle Muna went 2-for-3 with a double and two runs scored.

Maelyn Naputi and Pillar combined for 4-for-6, scoring two runs, and had three RBIs. Pillar also doubled in the game.

The game between Garapan and Kagman in the boys division was called off due to darkness. The match will be continued at a later date.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES				
NBA STANDINGS				
EASTERN CONFERENCE				
Atlantic Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	46	12	.793	—
Toronto	32	27	.542	14 1/2
Philadelphia	28	33	.459	19 1/2
New Jersey	26	34	.433	21
New York	18	42	.300	29
Southeast Division				
Orlando	39	23	.629	—
Washington	29	30	.492	8 1/2
Atlanta	24	34	.414	13
Charlotte	21	39	.350	17
Miami	11	46	.193	25 1/2
Central Division				
Detroit	44	16	.733	—
Cleveland	34	26	.567	10
Chicago	24	36	.400	20
Indiana	24	36	.400	20
Milwaukee	22	38	.367	22
WESTERN CONFERENCE				
Southwest Division				
San Antonio	42	17	.712	—
Northwest Division				
Utah	39	22	.639	—
Denver	35	24	.593	3
Portland	31	30	.508	8
Seattle	16	44	.267	22 1/2
Minnesota	12	47	.203	26
Pacific Division				
L.A. Lakers	43	18	.705	—
Phoenix	40	20	.667	2 1/2
Golden State	37	22	.627	5
Sacramento	27	33	.450	15 1/2
L.A. Clippers	19	39	.328	22 1/2
Yesterday's Games				
Orlando 102, Toronto 87				
Golden State 135, Atlanta 118				
Detroit 100, Seattle 97				
Charlotte 109, Minnesota 89				
Chicago 112, Memphis 97				
San Antonio 81, New Jersey 70				
Phoenix 97, Portland 92				
L.A. Lakers 117, Sacramento 105				
BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS				

NMASA honors athletes' performances



Far left, Athletes of the Year winners, from left, Jacque Wonenberg (Female Student Athlete), Ji Hoon Heo (Male Student Athlete), Sarah Johnson (Female Student Athlete), and Tyrone Omar (Male Athlete) join 2007 Coach of the Year awardee Jeff Race.

Left, CNMI Sports Hall of Fame director Jeff Race, from left, joins Hall of Famers Bill Sakovich, Ric Duenas, Kurt Barnes, and Tony Rogolifo.

Right, Sports Hall of Fame 2007 inductee Tony Benavente, third left, joins Hall of Famers, from left, Kurt Barnes, Bill Sakovich, and Tony Rogolifo.



Far right, Female Student Athlete of the Year winner Jacque Wonenberg, third right, joins other nominees, from left, Thea Minor, Emily Jones, Sarah Johnson, Jessica Soll, Chelsea Ruloked, and Yvonne Bennett for a group photo.



Male Student Athlete of the Year winner Ji Hoon Heo, right, checks the trophy of Jacque Wonenberg, who was named the Female Athlete of the Year.

Photos and Text By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER



The CNMI sports community gathered at the poolside of the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan Tuesday night to honor the top four athletes that excelled in their respective fields last year.

Organized by the Northern Marianas Amateur Sports Association, the annual sports banquet also saw a former ace pitcher inducted into the CNMI Sports Hall of Fame, while the 2007 labors of a long-time tennis mentor bore fruit when he was named the Coach of the Year.

Tyrone Omar (Male), Sarah Johnson (Female), Ji Hoon Heo (Male Student), and Jacque Wonenberg (Female Student) were named the 2007 Athletes of the Year for their exemplary feats in their chosen sports.

Tony Benavente was also inducted to the CNMI Sports Hall of Fame as the former hurler in the Saipan Major League joined the ranks of Ric Duenas (volleyball, athlete), Joe Pilali Sablan (softball, athlete), Cecilia Lisua (athletics, athlete), Kurt Barnes (athletics, coach), Francisco M. Palacios (baseball, administration), Irene Alpet (tennis, athlete, posthumous), and Tony Satur



Female Athlete of the Year Sarah Johnson, third left, joins nominees, from left, Yvonne Bennett, Chelsea Ruloked, and Noriko Jim.



Tony Benavente, left, receives the Hall of Fame plaque from Northern Marianas Amateur Sports Association board member Jeff Race after being inducted to the CNMI Sports Hall of Fame.



Male Student Athlete of the Year nominees, from left, Jericho Cruz, Omar Ajoste, Russell Buenaventura, Chris Cajigan, Ji Hoon Heo, Cooper Graf, and Kensuke Kimura.



Male Athletes of the Year nominees, from left, Nick Gross, Randall Aguon, Tyrone Omar, Rezne Wong, and Robert Talavera.



Female Student Athletes of the Month winners, from left, Thea Minor, Emily Jones, Sarah Johnson, Jessica Soll, Chelsea Ruloked, Yvonne Bennett, and Jacque Wonenberg pose for a group photo during the awards ceremony for the Northern Marianas Amateur Sports Association annual Athlete of the Year banquet Tuesday night at the poolside of the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan.

(athlete, softball), Bill and Jean Sakovich (swimming, coaches), Tony Rogolifo (basketball, athlete), and Mike Villagomez (swimming, athlete).

Jeff Race, meanwhile, earned his third Coach of the Year award after guiding the CNMI junior team to seven of the eight slots at stake for the North Pacific squad that competed against Guam, Palau, and the Federated States of Micronesia in the North Pacific Qualifying event on Saipan.

He also steered the Pacific Oceania squad to remain in Group II of the Davis Cup after the team—composed of Michael Leong of the Solomon Islands, Juan Langton of Samoa, Brett Baudinet of the Cook Islands, and West Nott of the Marshall Islands—beat Malaysia, Pakistan, and Lebanon.

It was also under Race's coaching that junior netters Heo and Thea Minor blossomed into one of the best players in the Oceania region.



NMASA honors athletes' performances

The CNMI sports community gathered at the poolside of the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan Tuesday night to honor the top four athletes that excelled in their respective fields last year.

27

Saipan Tribune Sports

'Tired' Brett Favre ends dazzling career

After flirting with retirement for years, Brett Favre means it this time. The Green Bay Packers quarterback quit a 17-season career in which he dazzled fans with his grit, heart and rocket of an arm.

24



28 THURSDAY, MARCH 6, 2008

Bucher back for XTERRA defense

By JON PEREZ

jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Three-time XTERRA Saipan champion Renata Bucher of Switzerland said she is ready for her title defense when the 2008 edition of the annual triathlon event speeds off this Saturday, March 8, at the American Memorial Park.

Bucher, in an interview yesterday at the Pacific Islands Club, said she spent eight weeks in Sunshine Coast, Australia to train and get back to top form after suffering a painful bike crash last year.

"I feel good right

now. I'm in good shape after my accident last year," said Bucher, who credits her friend and personal trainer Allan Collenson as the one who helped her get back to fighting form.

"This is also my first time to try triathlon again after last year's accident. Allan [Collenson] helped

me get back on track after missing half of 2007 due to a broken wrist."

Bucher crashed while competing in the European Championships on July 14, 2007,

in Cappadocia, Turkey where she broke her left wrist but still managed to finish the race in 15th place.

"There was a lot of sand in the racecourse and I could not see clearly. That is why I crashed and broke my wrist. I continued with the race despite my broken wrist, which was really painful," said Bucher, who had several pins inserted in her broken wrist.

"From the time of the crash until Christmas last year my whole left arm was on a plaster cast. I could not ride or swim. It was only early this year when I went to Sunshine Coast that

See BUCHER on Page 26



JON PEREZ
Renata Bucher of Switzerland poses with her bike at Pacific Islands Club before testing the XTERRA course yesterday.

Sarah: Parents' support was key

By JON PEREZ

jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

First time's a charm for Saipan Swim Club member Sarah Johnson as she was named the 2007 Female Athlete of the Year during Tuesday night's annual sports banquet at the poolside of the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan.

The Northern Marianas Amateur Sports Association hands out the award to top male and female athletes—including students—that excelled in their chosen sport for the past year.

Johnson said she dedicated the award to her parents Michael and Betty, her fellow swimmers at SSC, and SSC head coach Michael Stewart. "I was surprised when they called my name for the award. My parents were very happy and proud of me. I want to thank them for the encouragement and support that they give me."

"I [also] dedicate this award to the [SSC] swimmers and coach Mike who

See SARAH on Page 26



Sarah Johnson poses after receiving her Athlete of the Month certificate in Tuesday night's Northern Marianas Amateur Sports Association Athlete of the Year banquet held at the poolside of the Fiesta Resort and Spa Saipan.

JON PEREZ

Garapan beats Kagman in girls softball

By JON PEREZ

jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER



Mikissa Kukun homered and had six RBIs to lead the Garapan Lady Marlins to a 19-

11 win over the Lady Marlins

of Kagman in the 2nd Annual Elementary Fast-pitch Softball League yesterday at the Miguel Basa "Tan Ge" Pangelinan Field.

Kukun went 3-for-5 with a double and a home run to go with her six RBIs. She had a two-RBI double in the second

inning then saved the best for last with a grand slam in the fourth to help Garapan regain the lead, 15-14.

Kukkub had plenty of help from Mayleen Amandu and Jobie Pangelinan, who combined for 6-for-8 in batting. Pangeli-

See GARAPAN on Page 26

Club action resumes this weekend

By JON PEREZ

jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER



Club action in the Youth Football

League resumes this weekend with 13 games slated in the six age groups to be held in various fields on Saipan.

Simultaneous action begins at

2pm at the elementary schools of Gregorio T. Camacho, San Vicente, and Garapan and Saipan Southern High School where five matches will be played in the Under-6 and -10 divisions.

Matanza FC takes on MP United Blue at GTC while Independent FC-1 battles Paire FC-Red at the SSSH field in the Under-6 division. MP United FC-White will take a bye.

Over at San Vicente in the Under-10, Paire FC-Black will face Paire FC-Red in an inter-club rivalry, while Matanza FC clashes with MP United FC-White at GTC.

The Garapan field will be the venue of the match between MP United FC-Blue and Independent FC-2 also at 2pm.

At 3pm, it will be the Under-8

See CLUB on Page 26



Garapan Mallards pitcher Y.J. Nakayama, right, winds up a pitch to a waiting Kagman Marlins batter Keene Deleon Guerrero in their game in the Elementary School Fast-pitch Softball League yesterday at the Miguel Basa "Tan Ge" Pangelinan Field.

JON PEREZ